Chub Wagon wins again | Caravel, Mean Mary star at Pimlico | May sale sets records

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 7
JULY 2021

Nice Bouquet

Rombauer sparkles in Preakness triumph

Appreciation

Hoofprints, Inc.

The residual value of a stakes-winning filly who's earned over $100,000 is significant. After our May 2019 Midlantic 2-year-olds in training Preakness Sale offerings oversubscribed, Mike Pons and bloodstock agent Bill Reightler hopped a plane for the Ocala June 2-year-old sale. Bargain shopping, for $20,000 they found a barefoot filly being sold hastily from a well-known Virginia estate.

By Candy Rides' Twirling Candy (sire of Preakness winner Rombauer), out of an El Prado (Ire) mare, we named her Virginia Beach. In 2020, she won the $75,000 M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes. In her second start of 2021, she won a $40,000 Delaware Park allowance (above), bumping her earnings to $101,880. Future purse earnings lie ahead. This is the scenario envisioned for all of our Country Life Farm racing partnerships. Call us to learn more.

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Midlantic Fall Yearlings

OCTOBER 4-5, 2021

ENTRIES CLOSE: JULY 9, 2021

TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

2020 SALE TOPPER

HIP 371 - C. by **GUN RUNNER - STORMY TAK**

$270,000 Buyer - Lambe Bloodstock
Consignor - Becky Davis Inc., Agt.

3rd Highest-Priced Colt in Last 10 Years.

2020 RESULTS

SALE GROSS **UP 25.4% OVER 2019**
HIGHEST GROSS SINCE 2008

SALE AVERAGE **4TH HIGHEST**
IN SALE HISTORY

3RD HIGHEST MEDIAN
IN SALE HISTORY

RNA JUST **21%!**

"We are extremely happy with that result.
We were hoping to get around $50,000."

-Becky Davis, Consignor of $270,000 Gun Runner Colt
(Sale Topper, Hip 371)

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Remembering Steve Dance
Page 44

©Tod Marks

In this issue

Rombauer steps forward in Preakness win

After bypassing the Kentucky Derby, California-based Rombauer scorches the track at Pimlico Race Course and defeats Midnight Bourbon and embattled Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit in the Preakness. By Joe Clancy. Page 18

Chub Wagon keeps rolling

Pennsylvania-bred filly Chub Wagon adds another victory—her sixth in a row—in Pimlico's Skipat for owner/breeders Danny Lopez and George Chestnut and trainer Guadalupe Preciado on the Preakness undercard. Other highlights on the weekend: a Gallorette win for Fair Hill's Mean Mary; trainer Mike Maker's four stakes wins; a gutsy win by Pennsylvania-bred Caravel and handle records. By Tom Law and Joe Clancy. Page 24

May sale powers to new heights

A year after being forced back to late June because of the coronavirus pandemic, Fasig-Tipton's 2-year-old sale returns to May and sets records as a $1.5 million Quality Road colt shows the way. By Joe Clancy. Page 36

Schoodic lands Fisher another Gold Cup

Trainer Jack Fisher, soon to be inducted into racing's Hall of Fame, collects one more Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes, this time with his parents' runner Schoodic. By Sean Clancy. Page 52

Cover: Rombauer and Flavien Prat soak it all in after winning the 146th Preakness Stakes. Photo by Lydia A. Williams.

DEPARTMENTS

Post Time 6
Mid-Atlantic Report 8
Pensioner on Parade by Maggie Kimmitt 14
Editorial by Joe Clancy 16
Stakes Winners 43
Penn National: The Story 46
Charles Town: The Story 48
Broker's Tip by Rick Abbott 50
Obituaries 56
Maryland newsletter 57
New Jersey newsletter 65
North Carolina newsletter 69
Pennsylvania newsletter 71
PTHA news 75
South Carolina newsletter 77
Virginia newsletter 79
West Virginia newsletter 81
TGSF newsletter 83
Classifieds & Advertisers' Index 85
Looking Back 86
Past Time 88

Yearling Show Purse awards total $40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2021. A $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: $20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2022* and another $20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers*.

**all earnings verifiable by* The Jockey Club

Four classes. Maryland-sired colts and geldings; Maryland-sired fillies; out-of-state-sired colts and geldings; out-of-state-sired fillies.

Cash awards. **$1,000** in CASH AWARDS to ribbon winners in each class plus **$1,000** for grand champion, **$500** for reserve champion. Trophies and ribbons in each class. Award of **$100** to the groom of the best turned-out yearling in each class. All entries must be eligible for Maryland-bred registration.

Maryland Million cash awards. The Maryland Million certified yearling earning the highest ribbon in each class will receive **$100.**

Get of sire award. **$1,000** to the sire whose offspring earn the most points.

87th Annual

MHBA

THOROUGHBRED Yearling Show

Sunday, August 1 at 10 a.m.

Judge: Gary Contessa

Purse awards totaling $40,000

Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Entries close July 1st

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GreenMount Farm's
Bernardini filly out of Mystic Love

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Through December 2021

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August 21

$75,000 STAR DE NASKRA 3YO, 7 furlongs

$75,000 MISS DISCO 3YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

$75,000 FIND 3YO & Up, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

$75,000 ALL BRANDY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

November 26

$75,000 HOWARD BENDER 3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

December 4

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FUTURITY 2YO, 7 furlongs

$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP 2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

Find it on MarylandThoroughbred.com

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Weekly Entries & Results • Alpha–by Horse, by Breeder, by Stallion

Maryland Sires

CURRENT ACTIVE SIRES

Today's Entries • Yesterday's Results • Runners by Year Listings

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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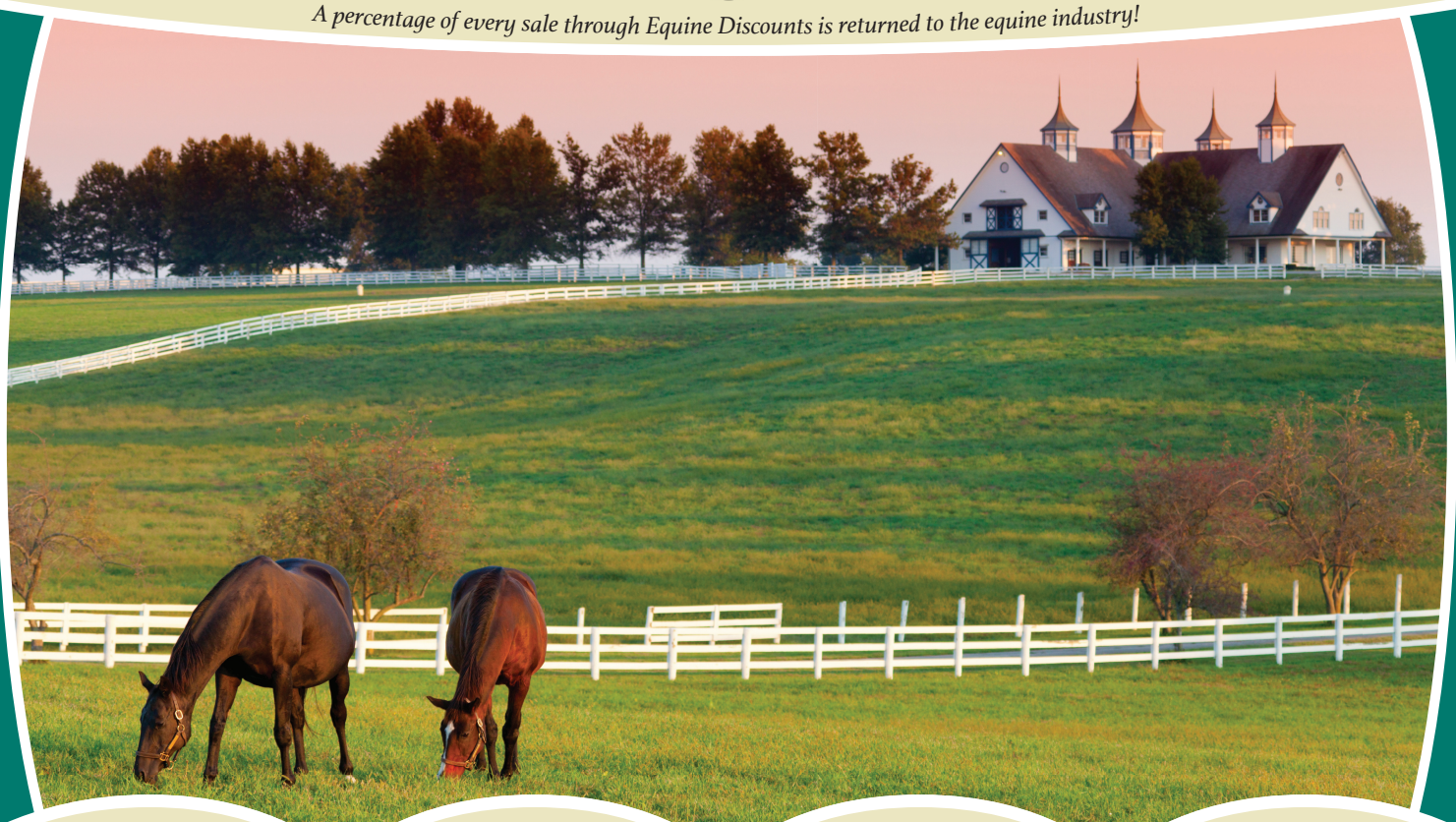

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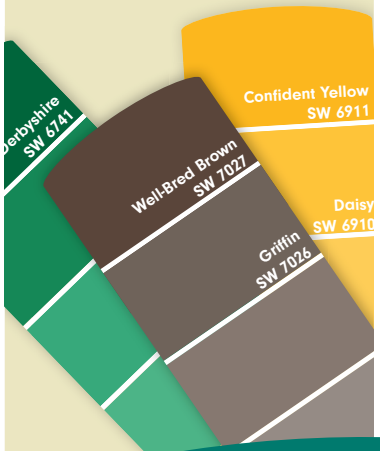

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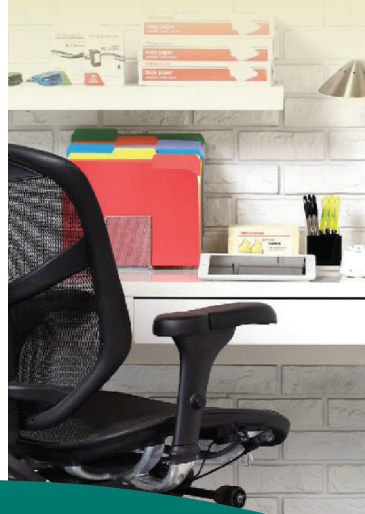

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POST TIME

TAILS I WIN. A mare at Country Life Farm keeps the flies, maybe cicadas, out of her foal's eyes.

Ellen B. Pons

© Ellen B Pons '21

Say It Again

"I've never won this race before. Where do I go?"
Trainer Michael McCarthy, after winning the Preakness with Rombauer; he figured it out

"We won the El Camino Real Derby. That was our Derby."
Preakness winner Rombauer's owner Diane Fradkin, on whether there was any second-guessing about not running in the Kentucky Derby

"This is the cleanest dirt I've ever walked on."
Sagamore Farm's Jocelyn Brooks, crossing the Pimlico dirt track in her good shoes on Black-Eyed Susan Day

"You think I'd give up one more chance to come to this?"
The Blood-Horse's Evan Hammonds, who scheduled his retirement for two days after the Preakness

"Glad it wasn't a stressful race and that it was so easy."
The Stronach Group's Aaron Gryder, to the connections of Caravel after the filly won the The Very One in a three-way photo

"I'm not sure I can get to the paddock otherwise. If you've got a horse, they just keep waving you on."
Trainer Steve Asmussen, on why he brought Preakness starter Midnight Bourbon over for the race himself (that wasn't the only reason)

"There's no way I'm not sending a horse back there to run. What a cool place."
Asmussen, on his impression of Timonium

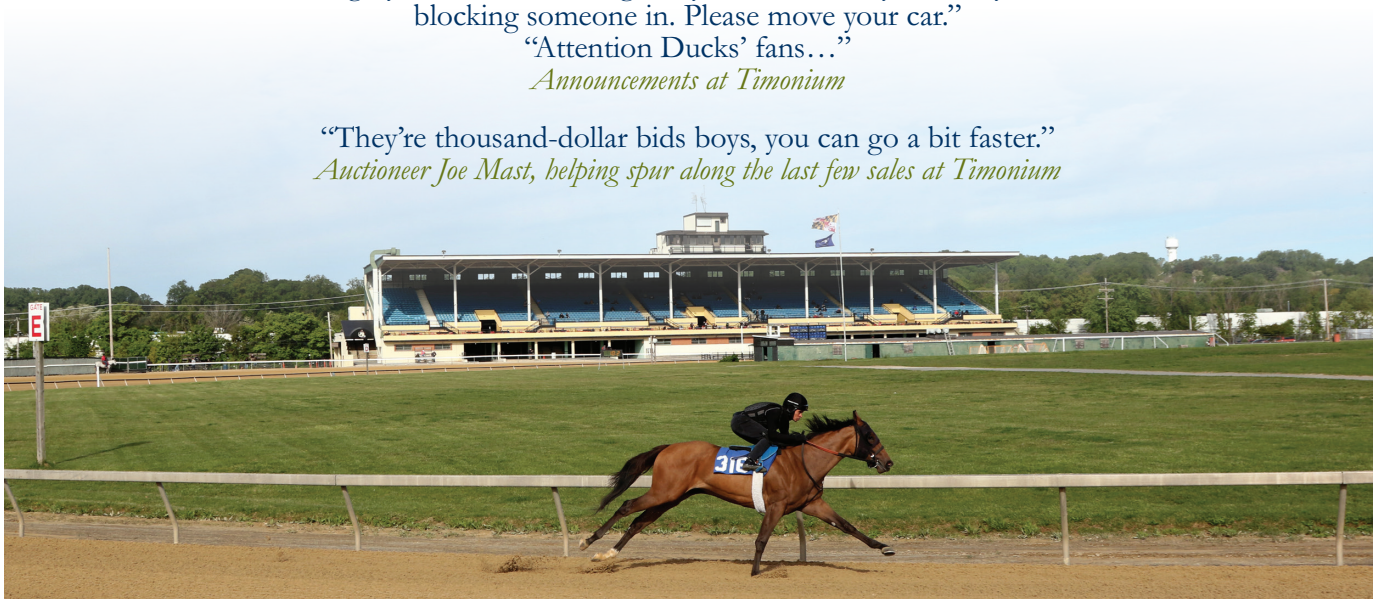
"Well, I haven't killed anyone yet, but give it time."
Bloodstock agent at Fasig-Tipton

"I'll show you tired."
Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett, after some long days at Timonium

"We were going to call the partnership We Still Owe for Her Stable."
Trainer Ron Moquett, after getting outbid on a filly at Timonium

"A gray Subaru from Oregon–you know who you are–you're blocking someone in. Please move your car."
"Attention Ducks' fans…"
Announcements at Timonium

"They're thousand-dollar bids boys, you can go a bit faster."
Auctioneer Joe Mast, helping spur along the last few sales at Timonium



FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO

Track Walking

Michael McCarthy sounded nervous as he stepped through the Pimlico Race Course dirt, eyeballing a tire track or firmer footing near the outside rail in his dress shoes, on his way to the paddock with Rombauer for the Preakness Stakes.

"How's this track playing?" the trainer asked.

"Eh, kind of hard to tell," came the reply. "Seems like speed is holding at least in most cases."

"Would they mind if we took a gander at it?"

"They probably wouldn't mind if you did. They might mind if I did. You go right ahead though."

McCarthy laughed, and made a left turn toward the inside rail—by himself.

He walked to the one path near the three-sixteenths pole, made a circle, walked toward the finish line, stopped, looked around, walked some more and came back with an ugly face.

"Not good, well, not good for me I don't think," he said. "Seems like it's been getting deeper as the day's gone on."

File it under Horse Trainers Looking for a Reason to Worry because a half-hour later, Rombauer mocked his trainer's concern and rallied through the stretch to catch early leaders Midnight Bourbon and Medina Spirit and win the Preakness.

– Joe Clancy

BILL DENVER

Dinner and a Show

Vipul Prakash and his wife aren't racing people, they don't own horses, don't even know much about the Preakness other than it's in their home state of Maryland and . . . well, there are horses and people and parties and such. And then they went to an official Preakness Week event as the guests of a friend.

The Prakashes sat down for dinner at Baltimore's Monarque restaurant with another couple and, as you do, started talking. They shared pleasantries, small talk, asked the obligatory "And why are you here?" That's where things got interesting. The dinner partners, John and Diane Fradkin, had a better story.

"We own a horse named Rombauer," they said.

The couples talked for an hour or more, about careers, dancing, a little racing. They posed for photos, went to valet parking together. Prakash wasn't sure how the Fradkins arrived, and offered a ride in his Porsche. The Fradkins nodded to their Preakness courtesy car. With the same friend who invited them to the party, the Prakashes attended the Preakness, sat in the Turfside Terrace area and watched history get made.

"It's totally wild, suddenly you know the owners of the horse that won the Preakness," said Prakash, after congratulating the Fradkins on their way to the post-race press conference. "We were just sitting and chatting [Thursday], it was a fun evening. We never saw each other today. We were in this Turfside thing and I had to come over and congratulate them. We came very late, just got here in time for the 12th race. Now they say we were their good luck charms."

A Bethesda resident and retired from a job with the World Bank, Prakash made a few Rombauer bets—just because—and then watched in amazement.

"He was so, 'Well, I don't think he's going to win.' Ten times he said it," said Prakash of John Fradkin. "Had he been more confident, even a little bit, I might have bet bigger. This is what dreams are about. It's exciting stuff. Never have I come so close to the owner of the Preakness winner."

– Joe Clancy

GO FIGURE

1 Non-working dog at the Preakness Stakes. Nellie the Whippet, a Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance ambassador, spent the day in Georganne Hale's office—and caused no problems.

5 Wins in 11 days (May 13-23 at Pimlico) for trainer Tim Keefe, after winning two all year to that point. The streak included three wins May 13, and singles May 20 and 23.

8 David F. Woods Awards won by *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* writers after Joe Clancy received the 2021 version for his coverage of the 2020 Preakness Stakes. The article "Force of the Filly" appeared in the November 2020 edition. A three-time Woods winner, Clancy joins his brother Sean (four) and Tom Law on the roster of winners honored by the Maryland Jockey Club.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Eye of the Needle. Michael Miller's West Virginia-bred, part of the Henry Walters barn, is out of I Can See.

Seasons. The 3-year-old filly, second in Pimlico's Hilltop Stakes May 14, is out of Winter Memories.

Correction

Last month's cover image was from the **third** fence of the Maryland Hunt Cup.

MILESTONES

Held: By the Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Fund, jockey's health day at Delaware Park, May 24. Premier Physical Therapy and Sports Performance hosted the event with Drs. Kelly Ryan, Brad Sandela, Talha Khan, and Chelsea Backer, plus athletic trainers Mandy Minutola, Sam Cutrone and Paige Ezell participating. Jockeys underwent physical examinations, baseline concussion testing and onboarding onto the Headcheck Health management system. Ryan, the track physician at Laurel Park in Maryland, and Premier PT have been utilizing HeadCheck, a web-based end-to-end solution to execute concussion protocols, mitigate risk and support recovery. HeadCheck gives participating racetracks the ability to instantly remove and return jockeys to riding by sharing possible injury alerts, baseline tests, physicals, medical clearances, jockey emergency contact information and other pertinent information. Delaware Park has a licensed athletic trainer during live racing with a treatment room located in the jockeys' room.

Relocated: All Laurel Park-based horses, mainly to Pimlico Race Course and Timonium racetrack in Maryland, while work accelerated on a complete resurfacing of the main track. Laurel had allowed training but no breezing over the main track until May 24, with all horses required to leave the grounds May 27. Many relocated to Timonium and Pimlico, where the Preakness Meet was extended through June 27 (and perhaps longer). Pimlico's stable area has been home to training for years, but the bulk of Maryland's Thoroughbreds were based at Laurel. Pimlico expanded its availability after Preakness Weekend, when out-of-town trainers exited their stalls, and with the addition of temporary stabling at the Baltimore track. Timonium's stable area has not been open for full training since the mid-1980s, when the track hosted a 40-day meet, but came to life thanks to an agreement between the Maryland Jockey Club and the Maryland State Fair. The 5-furlong track, home to the Maryland State Fair and a short racing schedule in late August and early September, will house nearly 600 horses in barns and a 60-stall tents left in place after Fasig-Tipton's Midlantic 2-year-old sale May 17-18. Timonium's 2021 meet is scheduled for Aug. 26-Sept. 6. The 2020 meet was canceled amid the coronavirus pandemic. Trainer Hamilton Smith sent horses the roughly 40 miles north from Laurel to Timonium and was the first trainer with timed breezes on the track. "As far as making the move and all, we handled all that pretty smoothly," he said. "We got them all over here and everything seems to be going all right so far. It's all part of it. Things happen, and you have to adjust. You just have to get organized and get it

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MILESTONES

done. That's what it takes, and we got it done pretty smooth." Work on the Laurel track was progressing, with a hoped-for return to racing this month.

Responded: To a lawsuit filed by the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and some of its affiliates, the lead congressional sponsors of the Horseracing Safety and Integrity Act. A 14-page amicus brief was filed May 14 by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Reps. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) and Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.), the leading sponsors of the legislation in the Senate and House respectively. The brief underscores why HISA is critically important to protect and preserve the future of racing, the multi-year deliberations by congress that included input from all sectors of the racing industry, that led to broad bipartisan support for HISA, and the reasons why HISA is structurally constitutional. HISA passed the House and Senate and was signed into law in December 2020. The board of directors of the standards-setting authority designated by the Act, and the members of its two advisory committees, were named in May. The law requires the HISA Authority to submit proposed standards for consideration to the Federal Trade Commission and requires the FTC to issue final rules (after public comment) covering lab accreditation, track safety and accreditation, anti-doping and medication control, and results management and discipline. The FTC rules and regulations will become effective July 1, 2022.

Hired: As the president of Equibase Company, racing executive Sal Sinatra, whose most recent position was with the Maryland Jockey Club. Sinatra succeeds Jason Wilson, who left Equibase in April to join The Stronach Group (parent company of the Maryland Jockey Club). "Sal is a longtime participant in the Thoroughbred industry, and the Equibase Management Committee knows he will be a valuable asset to the Equibase team," said Ian Highet, chairman of Equibase. "His analytical background, management experience, and firsthand knowledge of every aspect of racing will guide Equibase in developing a strategic path forward for its products and services." Sinatra double majored in math and statistics at Rutgers University, during which time he was an assistant clerk at the *Daily Racing Form*. In 1985 he became a racing official at Monmouth

Sal Sinatra

Park and Meadowlands in New Jersey and was also an assistant racing secretary at Beulah Park in Ohio. From 1990-99, he was president and ownership partner of TSNS, which was acquired by The Jockey Club as part of InCompass Solutions. He then spent 15 years as vice president of racing and racing secretary at Parx Racing in Pennsylvania, before becoming president and general manager of Maryland Jockey Club in 2014. "I have spent my entire career in Thoroughbred racing and have worked with Equibase since its inception. I have tried to be an innovative leader and that will be reflected in my leadership of Equibase," Sinatra said.

Open: Nominations for the 2021 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards, sponsored by Godolphin in association with The Jockey Club, National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protection Association, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and the Breeders' Cup. Nominations close Aug. 2. As with many events throughout 2020, the TIEA ceremony took place virtually. The 2021 renewal of TIEA will be an in-person event in October, hosted by Keeneland. This year's award categories reflect a few changes. There will be one overall Leadership Award, combining the previously separated awards in breeding and racing. The Support Services Award has been added to reward an individual who works in any non-administrative, support service role in the Thoroughbred industry. Eligible candidates include, but are not limited to: sales positions, auctioneers, gardeners, veterinary practices, farriers, starting gate crew, horse transport, grounds staff (at sales companies, farms or racetracks), valets, horse dentists, physiotherapists, etc. TIEA award category sponsors for 2021 include Churchill Downs, Hallway Feeds, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, I Am Horse Racing, along with Keeneland. Awards will be presented in seven categories, including the new Support Services division, with $122,000 in total prize money. For more information and to nominate online, go to tiea.org.

Won: His 1,000th race, jockey Xavier Perez, at Delaware Park June 7. Perez steered In the Loop to a nose victory for No Guts No Glory Farm and Gene Gould Jr. and trainer Jerry Robb. Perez, 33, began riding professionally in 2007 in his native Puerto Rico before coming to the U.S. that summer. He won his first race aboard Danger Quest Aug. 25, 2007, at Charles Town.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

What we have is a failure to communicate: Bob Baffert didn't have a horse in the Belmont, but all anyone could talk about was Bob Baffert. It's exhausting, and another whiff, opines Frank Vespe.

Off the Pace—the aftercare challenge: What to do with end-of-career horses is a problem with many causes, and many solutions, and people working to enact them. Mike Valiante offers his opinion.

Home is the horseman: The trainer who died in 1949 and the dog who died in 1974 are among the many, many ghosts of Pimlico who'll need a place of honor when renewal comes, notes Vespe.

John McKee and Fiber Sonde's "Great Cross": The combination of his sire Fiber Sonde and mares by Indian Charlie has been a major factor in John McKee's recent success—and that looks to be continuing, reports Ted Black.

Backtracks—well armed: Top handicappers Armed and Stymie—whose meeting in the 1946 Dixie was the second of three compelling races—are the subjects of Jennifer Kelly's historic look back.

Backtracks—Chompion's Dixie: More Dinner Party history from Kelly—Paul Mellon's Virginia-bred Hall of Famer Fort Marcy is disqualified in the 1971 Dixie, which is won by 1968 Travers winner Chompion, campaigned by New Jersey owner and breeder John Fieramosca.

A Maryland-bred Hero—25th Anniversary

Cigar
Record Reached

Arlington Citation Challenge Invitational Stakes
July 13, 1996 - Arlington Park

Cigar's next start would tie Citation's record 16-race winning streak. The Hollywood Gold Cup-G1 in California was the target until a bruised heel kept Cigar from training for two weeks. Arlington Park chairman Richard Duchossois offered owner Allen Paulson and trainer Bill Mott everything they could want in a race, and lured the most popular horse in the world to Chicago.

The $1.05-million Arlington Citation Challenge Invitational was limited to 10 starters going 1⅛ miles. Cigar carried 130 pounds (eight to 14 more than his rivals). Nearly 35,000 fans turned out to watch Cigar's run to history. He didn't disappoint.

Cigar broke from post 10, and a bit of apprehension crept in as he was parked wide and as far back as sixth at one point—but he made his patented sweeping move and cruised home 3½ lengths ahead of Dramatic Gold as 5-1 second choice Unbridled's Song faded to ninth.

Those in attendance included photographer Lydia Williams, a longtime *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* contributor who shot nine of Cigar's races during his 1995-96 campaigns.

"I'd seen Cigar in 1993 when he was second in the Volante Handicap [on the turf at Santa Anita during Breeders' Cup week], and I liked what I saw," remembered Williams. "I thought he was a very handsome horse. I always loved Paulson's colors, and because Cigar was a Maryland-bred, I took photos of him that day. It was another year before he won the allowance race which began the streak."

Among Williams' memories was the 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic at Woodbine: "Even though this was his last race, and he didn't win, what I remember most was when he arrived, all the press/photographers were crammed into the openings inside the barn, and he walked around, everyone trying to get a better position to see him. Mott walked him around a few times before putting him away.

"At one point, he stopped right in front of me and was looking out an opening in a door, and here I was [crouching down] within inches of his front feet, looking up at his head just above me, hoping he would be a good boy. He was."

Williams was also at Madison Square Garden in New York for Cigar's appearance in November 1996. "Cigar arrived in his own van covered with his name and photos. . . people lined the streets around Madison Square Garden. I stood next to Madeleine Paulson on 7th Avenue waiting for the van to arrive."

Photographer Lydia Williams captured scenes from Maryland-bred Cigar's 1996 visit to Arlington Park.

Williams visited Cigar several times when he was retired to stud, and then at the Kentucky Horse Park after he proved infertile. And she attended the ceremony in 2015 after he had died.

Williams said it's "hard to pick one thing that was better or more fun than the other. It was quite a ride. . ."

– Cindy Deubler

Triple Crown 2021 filled with controversy, wagering records

By Tom Law

The Triple Crown returned to the spring season in 2021 after a pandemic-shifted and shuffled 2020 and with it came the lingering controversy over Medina Spirit's failed drug test, robust betting returns, two homebred victories and first wins for owners, trainers and jockeys.

Preakness coverage begins on page 18

Godolphin's homebred champion 2-year-old male Essential Quality closed the series with a gritty victory over Hot Rod Charlie in the June 5 Belmont Stakes-G1, providing trainer Brad Cox with his first classic win (for now) and jockey Luis Saez his first two years removed from his number coming down aboard Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby-G1.

Essential Quality, a son of Tapit who won by 1¼ lengths, became the 11th Belmont winner to lose the Derby, skip the Preakness Stakes-G1 and come back in five weeks to take the final jewel of the Triple Crown. He joined the likes of Tapwrit, the last to do it in 2017, Palace Malice, Union Rags, Summer Bird, Jazil, Birdstone and Empire Maker to win the Belmont off a five-week freshening.

The Belmont victory came at the expense of Rombauer, who finished 12½ lengths back in third, three weeks after winning the first Preakness for trainer Michael McCarthy and owners and breeders John and Diane Fradkin. Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit was not in the Belmont field after finishing third in the Preakness, but couldn't have been entered regardless because of a move by the New York Racing Association to not allow entries from trainer Bob Baffert after the failed test for betamethasone in the Kentucky Derby.

News of Medina Spirit's failed test first broke the Sunday prior to the Preakness, when trainer Bob Baffert announced it during a press conference at his barn at Churchill Downs. Baffert eventually made the rounds on national news shows, offering denials, blaming the positive test on a variety of potential factors and ultimately landing on a topical ointment used to treat a skin rash, calling the ordeal "cancel culture" and no-showing at the Preakness.

Churchill Downs eventually banned him, along with NYRA, and the sanctions went to another level when Medina Spirit's split-sample also came back positive three days before the Belmont. Churchill Downs Inc. wasted no time after that confirmation, suspending Baffert for two years for his "reckless practices and substance violations and jeopardizing the safety of our equine and human athletes" and "compromise the integrity of our sport" though no official ruling had been announced by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission as of June 8.

While Baffert's absence on Belmont Stakes Day—where he could have run several contenders including Charlatan in the Metropolitan Handicap-G1—proved noticeable it did little to deter another strong showing at the betting windows.

The on-track crowd of 11,238—limited by state guidelines related to the Covid-19 pandemic—and those away from Belmont wagered $112,725,278 on the stakes-heavy card. NYRA reported that as a record for a non-Triple Crown attempt, and a 10 percent increase from the $102,163,289 bet in 2019. That followed a record $112,504,509 bet on the Preakness Day card and $233 million bet on the Derby Day card, the sixth best in history.

Before Medina Spirit's failed drug test Baffert stood to win a record seventh Kentucky Derby, moving out of a tie with Ben Jones, and increase his lead on the all-time list of Triple Crown race winners with 17. A disqualification could make Juddmonte Farm's Mandaloun the Derby winner, and also give Cox two-thirds of the American classics.

Cox shrugged off the notion he'd "won" the Derby in the days leading up to the Belmont and didn't talk about it after Essential Quality's victory.

"I've always dreamed of winning Derbies and winning Belmonts, and classic races," Cox said. "Everyone is different, but I've always wanted to be at the top and have top horses. It takes outfits like Godolphin and Juddmonte, large outfits, to give you opportunities with well-bred horses. That's what we've received."

Saez won his first classic in his fifth ride in the Belmont and 15th Triple Crown appearance. He missed a chance in 2019 when Maximum Security was disqualified and placed 17th in the Derby, a decision that gave Flavien Prat his first classic win on Country House. Prat added a second in this year's Preakness aboard Rombauer.

Rombauer wound up with a new jockey—Hall of Famer John Velazquez, who rode Medina Spirit in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness—after Prat opted for Hot Rod Charlie in the Belmont. Hot Rod Charlie also skipped the Preakness after running in the Derby, the same move employed by the connections of the 4-5-6 finishers from the Belmont in Known Agenda, Bourbonic and Rock Your World.

"Two fresh horses, that's why the Triple Crown is so difficult to win," Velazquez said of Rombauer attempting to come back in three weeks versus his rivals in five. "When you have fresh horses going into the races it's really hard."

The 1-2 finish in the Belmont for Essential Quality and Hot Rod Charlie also produced the same exacta as last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1, and this year's Triple Crown marked the first time since 2010 that at least one horse didn't compete in all three races. ✹

Jackie Wilson

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Nilson Guzman and Jackie Wilson show off at Prospect Farm.

"Do you know who Jackie Wilson was?" Lucy Howard asked. "If not, watch some videos of him online, and then you'll understand."

She's right. Although the name of the diminutive gelding is an obvious nod to his sire, Citidancer, the similarities between him and the R&B recording artist of the mid-20th century could not have been forecast when Country Life Farm's Josh Pons submitted the moniker to The Jockey Club. Josh and brother Mike Pons purchased the weanling son of the Woodman mare Promenade Lane for $6,200 from Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's mixed sale in December 2004.

"I bought a share in Jackie when I was visiting Country Life on my way down to Maryland from New York City," Howard said. "He was in a field, came over to the rail looking for attention and was so cute I could not resist even though I was not looking for another investment at the time."

The colt was small, as in nearly pony-sized. His dam was a modest winner of two races and $15,760. But he had his sire's good looks and blinding, bright chestnut coat. He was loaded with chrome and chutzpah. Cheekiness. Flash. Little Man Syndrome. Even as a youngster, the equine Jackie Wilson was He Who Will Not Be Ignored.

His human counterpart rose to fame as a dynamic performer whose legendary dance moves included splits, spins, knee drops and back flips. His impassioned performances earned him the nickname "Mr. Excitement," and he is most well-known for the 1967 song "(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher."

Country Life's Jackie Wilson was bred in Maryland by Finale Farm, David Moose and John Foster. His blink-and-you-almost-missed-it racing career spanned eight starts as a 3-year-old from Jan. 11 through June 27, 2007. And Jackie got around a bit. Trained by Rachael Lively, he made two starts at Laurel for the Country Life partners before being claimed for $10,000 in his third start by trainer Dale Capuano Feb. 10.

Lively was locked and loaded when Capuano ran the gelding back on March 14, dropping the claim slip for new owner Lisa Richardson. Jackie Wilson broke his maiden in that 5½-furlong contest on Laurel's main track that day. At Pimlico a month later, he was eased after getting squeezed back at the gate and trailing the field.

Lively sent him to Charles Town next, and he was claimed for $10,000 by trainer Henry Worcester III. He bumped the horse up to allowance company three weeks later; he finished last.

All the while, Jackie Wilson's original connections–Howard in particular–kept tabs on his whereabouts and results. When he headed to post for a 4½-furlong claimer at Charles Town on June 27, trainer Tim Grams put up the $7,500, and the horse headed back home to Maryland. Six and a half months, eight races, one win, one second, two thirds and $12,170. Racing career done and dusted.

"Tim Grams claimed Jackie for me," Howard explained, "and I then took him off the track. He was too cute to risk anymore."

Jackie Wilson went back to Lively for a bit, then to hunter/jumper trainer Tim Maddrix for a horse show career and finally to Billy Santoro after Maddrix moved to Alabama.

Santoro, long a staple on the steeplechase circuit, operates Prospect Farm in Monkton, Md., with partner and fellow trainer Alicia Murphy. They have a laundry list of former and current top jumpers, many of whom retire to fruitful second careers as foxhunters and show horses.

"There have been a few notables who were under Jackie's tutelage," Santoro said. "While in training as a racehorse, Rosie Napravnik used to get on him. After he retired, Calixto Juarez dropped his son Nik off here one day and said, 'Teach him how to ride.' So Jackie was an early coach for Nik Juarez. I taught him how to gallop and all that sort of stuff. . . and now Nik's story is well-known."

A full-time jockey since 2014, Nik Juarez has won more than 843 races with purse earnings of more than $28 million. He rode 1,144 races in 2017.

Now 17, Jackie Wilson more than holds his own amongst a Prospect Farm roster that includes Maryland Hunt Cup winners Private Attack and Twill Do and multiple timber stakes winner Cornhusker (GB).

Santoro opened the stall door and walked away, and fully-tacked Jackie Wilson came out and fell in behind him. Santoro turned right into the tack room and adjoining office, and Jackie Wilson followed suit, using the shortcut to walk

through and emerge on the other side of the shedrow.

Outside, Prospect Farm staff member Nilson Guzman waited to hop on the gelding and pose for photos. The native of El Salvador has worked for Santoro for four years. Learning to ride was something he wanted to do since childhood.

"He's an impressive horse, and it's an honor for me to ride him," Guzman said. "I've been hunting on him a couple of times. I've not been doing this very long. Billy taught me to ride on Jackie Wilson and Private Attack."

No old beater cars for this student driver. Guzman learned on Cadillacs.

Santoro watched with obvious pride as Guzman rode Jackie Wilson across a broad lawn near the main barn. Guzman looks as though he was raised in the saddle, and Jackie Wilson's larger-than-life persona belies his barely 15-hand stature.

"That," Santoro nodded at the pair. "That's what I mean about Jackie's presence. Nilson is an excellent soccer player too. He's a very natural athlete. The first time he sat on a horse, you could tell this was going to be easy. And he observes very well; he listens and always tries."

Santoro and Murphy are quick to point out that Jackie Wilson's most important role is that of babysitter to any horse at Prospect Farm in need of a wingman. He's turned out with all new arrivals. They need to train with a buddy? No problem. Company at the races? Jackie Wilson is on it; he's up the ramp and on the van.

"He absolutely LOVES going to the races," Santoro said.

Jackie Wilson remains a man in high demand by visiting riders, frequently requested as a mount in the hunt field.

"And everyone knows who he is," Murphy added. "You'll hear 'That's Jackie Wilson!'"

"He's just a magical foxhunter," Santoro said.

He and Murphy are always happy to oblige, but respectfully declined a recent ask to allow the gelding to travel this summer to a week-long pony camp in Camden, S.C.

"I don't think we could stand being without him for that long," Santoro grinned. ✹

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TOD MARKS

Horses aren't the problem in racing world

Maybe the horses have this covered. Maybe, if we left it to them, they'd make the right decisions and overcome all of our failures for the good of the game.

Think about it.

People give horses medications, necessary or not.

People create rules that apply in one state and don't apply in others.

People run horses "one more time."

People run former stakes horses in cheap claiming races.

People claim horses for strictly business reasons.

People won't look outside the box (built by people) and think of an alternative categorical system of racing.

People try to have "early" foals so they'll be bigger and stronger for the sales ring.

Other people tell you that doesn't matter (all three 2021 Triple Crown race winners were foaled in April, by the way).

People breed hundreds of mares to the same few stallions, and then complain that Thoroughbred racing has no middle to its business, horses today aren't as strong as they were decades ago and today's stallions don't offer enough variety.

People created some rules to help that problem.

Other people took those people to court.

People spend small fortunes on racehorses, and future racehorses, but the people who care for those horses work six or more days a week and often live on the racetrack in conditions that aren't much better than the stalls the horses live in.

People created a federal body to oversee racing on a national scale and lobbied other people to pass the law putting it all in motion.

People set that law to go into effect next year.

People expect that body to get to work.

Other people think it's all unconstitutional and are suing.

They're not suing horses.

People created rules for the use of Lasix, to help protect horses from exercised induced pulmonary hemorrhaging.

People are changing those rules. Well, some people.

People created hard-to-understand rules for use of the riding crop. Those rules vary, depending on the state and/or racetrack.

People make decisions in the stewards' stand.

People made rules that allow those decisions to be overturned. In some states, not in others.

People connected racing to revenue from slot machines and other forms of gambling.

People didn't do a good enough job justifying racing's share of that revenue to state legislators and the general public.

People are trying to take away those subsidies. In some states, not in others.

People got caught in an FBI probe into racing in 2020.

People make business decisions, instead of horse-welfare decisions.

People let racetrack facilities get old.

People allow independent, competing entities to make big-picture decisions with ripple effects across the sport.

I know horses can't literally make all the decisions for themselves—the feed cart would always be empty were that the case—but if we consider the horses a little more when we make our decisions, this will be a better game and a better world.

Think about it some more.

For all the controversy caused by his post-race test above the limit for betamethasone, Medina Spirit didn't do anything wrong when he won the Kentucky Derby. He didn't break a rule. He didn't make a judgment call he shouldn't have made. He didn't blame it on cancel culture or hint at sabotage. He didn't make excuses. The horse ran a gutsy, game, determined race, fought off all challengers, did everything expected of him.

Two weeks later at Pimlico, Medina Spirit tried to do the right thing again. He ran to the best of his ability, and finished third to another horse who did the same. After skipping the Derby, Rombauer summoned a reserve of energy in the stretch, passed Medina Spirit and Midnight Bourbon, won for owners/breeders with less than a handful of broodmares and gave racing a new story.

Three weeks beyond the Preakness, Derby favorite and last year's 2-year-old champion Essential Quality did his part—stepping up and delivering in the Belmont Stakes. He didn't make a mistake, he didn't bend a rule, he didn't push things. He just responded like an athlete and edged past Hot Rod Charlie—another horse doing his best—to win the Triple Crown's 1½-mile finale.

Could we ask for anything more? Not from horses. ✹

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RACE	DISTANCE	TO BE RUN	PURSE (Guaranteed)	CLOSES	NOM-FEES
The Alapocas Run Stakes - Listed 3 Year Olds & Upward	6 furlongs	July 3	$50,000	June 19	FREE
The Christiana Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/16 (Turf)	July 3	$75,000	June 19	$50
The Kent Stakes - Grade III For 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/8 (Turf)	July 3	$150,000	June 19	$200
THE DELAWARE OAKS - Grade III For Fillies 3 Year Olds	1 mile & 1/16	July 3	$300,000	June 19	$200
The Peach Blossom Stakes* Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓒ	7 1/2 furlongs (Turf)	July 7	$50,000	June 24	FREE
The Sussex Stakes* For 3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓒ	7 1/2 furlongs (Turf)	July 8	$50,000	June 24	FREE
The Battery Park Stakes For 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/16	July 10	$50,000	June 26	FREE
The Dashing Beauty Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	6 furlongs	July 10	$100,000	June 26	$50
The Robert G. Dick Memorial - Grade III Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)	July 10	$150,000	June 26	$200
THE DELAWARE HANDICAP - Grade II Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/4	July 10	$400,000	June 26	$250
The Cape Henlopen Stakes - Listed 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/2 (Turf)	Aug 11	$75,000	July 29	$50
The Blue Hen Stakes* For Fillies-2 Year Olds Ⓒ	5 1/2 furlongs	Aug 25	$50,000	Aug 14	FREE
The Dover Stakes* For 2 Year Olds Ⓒ	5 1/2 furlongs	Aug 26	$50,000	Aug 14	FREE
The Small Wonder* For Fillies-2 Year Olds Ⓒ	5 1/2 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The First State Dash* For 2 Year Olds Ⓒ	5 1/2 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The Tax Free Shopping Distaff* For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓒ	6 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The New Castle* For 3 Year Olds & Upward Ⓒ	6 furlongs	Sept 25	$100,000	Sept 15	FREE
The George Rosenberger Memorial** ◊ For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 1/16 (Turf)	Sept 25	$75,000	Sept 15	FREE
The DTHA Governors Day Handicap** ◊ 3 Year Olds & Upward	1 mile & 70 yds	Sept 25	$75,000	Sept 15	FREE
The White Clay Creek Stakes For Fillies-2 Year Olds	1 mile	Oct 13	$50,000	Oct 2	FREE
The Rocky Run Stakes For 2 Year Olds	1 mile	Oct 16	$50,000	Oct 2	FREE

Horsemen please remember to check all condition books for Overnight Stakes that are not listed here for the 2021 Racing Season.

* restricted to Delaware-bred and/or Certified horses Ⓒ denotes Delaware Certified
◊ Delaware Certified horses will receive up to a $50,000 bonus if finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd

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Coming Through

Rombauer delivers Preakness win for McCarthy, racing

By Joe Clancy

BILL DENVER

Michael McCarthy leaned on the fence outside the stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course. The trainer finished a Preakness Week 2021 television interview, took a break from his insistent phone and replied to a question about his runner Rombauer with a simple, "We can go see him if you want."

And then McCarthy played host inside the barn.

Hip turned toward the stall door and wearing a light sheet on a chilly morning, Rombauer really wasn't interested in visitors until his trainer started talking.

"Don't turn your back on him," McCarthy warned as Rombauer arrived up front and took on the dual roles of cute horse and man-eating dragon. Lightly made with a white triangle high on his forehead and a bad-haircut tail, Rombauer bared his teeth, opened his jaws, tried to take a nip. Then he played nice, and looked for a mint or some other offering. Soon he went back to harassment. He'd have taken a notebook into the stall, chewed a pen if given half a chance, definitely would have bitten the horse walking in the shedrow. But Rombauer also pricked his ears to say hello and acted as if he could pluck a cookie from a kindergartner's hand if someone expected it of him.

"That's him," McCarthy said. "He doesn't have the look of a classic prospect. He's a little bit lighter made, medium-sized, but he's got wonderful mechanics and his best weapon might be in here [with a tap between the bay colt's eyes]. Right from the beginning, everything about him was pretty easy. He shipped a whole bunch of places, ran on different surfaces, went to different venues. Nothing bothered him."

Add Pimlico, the Preakness Stakes-G1, nine rivals and the scrutiny of what felt like half the world to the list of things that didn't bother Rombauer. Owned and bred by Californians John and Diane Fradkin, the son of Twirling Candy handled it all in Baltimore–capped by a 3½-length score over Midnight Bourbon with disputed Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Medina Spirit third May 15. Rombauer rated in sixth early for jockey Flavien Prat, eased to fourth on the turn and devoured the leaders when given a cue in the stretch. The winner covered 1 3/16 miles in 1:53.62, sixth fastest in stakes history.

McCarthy watched it unfold from the outdoor horsemen's boxes just upstairs from the finish line. Alone in a small sea of people, in a dark suit, a white shirt and a burgundy tie, he barely reacted.

"Watching live, going back to the Jumbotron, when he hit the front, I don't think I said a word," he said. "I certainly didn't root, at least I don't think I did. Just kind of watched the horse in a rhythm, him and Flavien. Stunned is pretty–stunned, not totally surprised I guess. I don't know if that makes any sense. The horse had been touting himself here all week. His last two works were very, very good."

Rombauer charges through the final yards of his victory in the Preakness Stakes over Midnight Bourbon (right) and Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit.

Alone at a table in the post-race press conference room in the Pimlico infield, McCarthy thought about those two works, that in-the-stretch rhythm, the people who work for him, a training career that couldn't get over 100 starts (or a dozen wins) in its first three seasons, the dues paid during a decade with trainer Todd Pletcher and time with trainer Ben Cecil, growing up within listening distance of Santa Anita's race calls, contracting Covid-19 last year, missing wife Erin and daughter Stella back home in California, all of it.

Winning a Preakness, in his first attempt, a few years after winning a Breeders' Cup race, at his first Breeders' Cup as a trainer, would make anybody try to sum up what it took to get there.

Like his horse, McCarthy came through in the clutch and found the words.

"Just super proud of the effort that everybody has put forth that's not here today, that's back in Barn 59 at Santa Anita," he said. "We'll get home and celebrate this with them. A lot of teamwork today. Probably the biggest part of my team, my family, my wife and my daughter. It would have been nice to have them here today . . . I can't tell you the support I get from them. My wife was up at 3 this morning California time helping me out, doing some things. This trophy is as much my family's as it is mine."

Topsy Turvy Week

A $1,000 yearling and a $35,000 2-year-old purchase, Medina Spirit upset the Derby at 12-1 May 1, giving trainer

Bob Baffert a record seventh win in the country's most prestigious Thoroughbred race. The Preakness came next for Zedan Racing Stables' colt, potentially Baffert's third Triple Crown winner in seven years.

And then everything went up in betamethasone.

Eight days after the Derby, Baffert spoke at a press conference outside his barn at Churchill Downs. Medina Spirit's post-race drug test came back above the limit for the therapeutic medication. The trainer said Medina Spirit had "never" been treated with betamethasone, an injectable corticosteroid used to decrease inflammation in horses' joints and an ingredient in some topical creams and ointments.

Any resolution awaited the results of a split-sample test and an official ruling from the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, but Baffert appeared on Fox News, the *Dan Patrick Show* and other national platforms while speaking of cancel culture, injustice and regulators who "don't use common sense." Baffert's fifth medication violation in 13 months followed overages for phenylbutazone (twice), dextrorphan and betamethasone (champion Gamine was disqualified from third in last year's Kentucky Oaks-G1) in addition to two lidocaine positives in Arkansas where the racing commission overturned disqualifications but fined the trainer $10,000.

Two days after the press conference at Churchill, Baffert issued a statement saying that Medina Spirit had been treated with an anti-fungal cream containing betamethasone for skin disease that developed after the April 3 Santa Anita Derby-G1. Churchill Downs suspended Baffert from entering horses. The Maryland Jockey Club delayed the Preakness entry process by a day, before working out an agreement on special pre-race testing and monitoring of Baffert's horses.

Preakness starters Medina Spirit and Concert Tour plus two other weekend runners passed those tests, and were permitted to run, though Baffert did not attend, claiming he didn't want to be a distraction (the cable TV tour be damned).

By Preakness Day, another Baffert statement asked to keep the focus on Medina Spirit and the sport. And so it went for racing, already battered by federally indicted trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis, spectatorless events during the Covid-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of the Horse Racing Integrity Act to nationalize medication rules and other regulation starting in 2022. A positive test in the Derby, for the first time since Dancer's Image in 1968? Add it to the list.

Medina Spirit's Preakness defeat, a hard-trying third after setting a pressured pace, for the moment threw cold water on the madness of an industry trying to right itself. A Derby winner who tested above the limit for betamethasone was one thing. A Triple Crown bid would have been something altogether different.

Like many, McCarthy felt the stress.

"It takes a lot to get to a race like the Kentucky Derby and I couldn't imagine what it would be like to get to the Derby, win the Derby and have this dropped in your lap," he said before the Preakness. "It's a challenge for the connections, but it's also a challenge for everybody here. It's supposed to be one of our biggest weekends in the game and something like this had to pop up. There are a lot of people who have put in a lot of sweat equity to get here and hopefully not all is lost on that."

Whether he knew it or not, Rombauer came through for everybody's sweat (and equity). And it almost didn't happen.

Foaled at Machmer Hall in Kentucky, Rombauer went to Florida horseman Eddie Woods for early lessons. The plan was to sell the colt, out of Fradkin homebred Cashmere, as a 2-year-old. Several months in, Woods wasn't optimistic. Covid fouled up the sales schedule in Florida. He didn't think waiting until late June for the rescheduled Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale in Maryland (if it was even going to happen) made much sense. Perhaps Rombauer could race for the Fradkins and McCarthy. If he won an early start, he'd be an ideal candidate to sell privately.

"He wasn't the typical good-enough horse to take to a 2-year-old sale because the 2-year-old sales were all messed up," said Woods after selling the top two lots at the Timonium sale four days after the Preakness. "If he'd have gone to the April sale, he'd have worked an ordinary work and not gotten much attention, and he's not a May physical. He'd have brought $25,000 to $30,000."

So off to California he went.

Rombauer's half-brother Cono won his second start for the Fradkins. Another half-brother, Treasure Trove, won his debut after selling for $10,000 as a 2-year-old.

"It is an early family . . . the family has a history of winning early," said John Fradkin. "I thought it was a pretty good plan, so we did ship him to Michael and got him going. I've got to tell you the first reports weren't positive. I was hearing he had no speed, and that's really not what you want to hear when you want to win early with a 2-year-old."

McCarthy aimed for turf, and distance, and Rombauer won his debut going a mile at Del Mar July 25. He paid $35.40, but purchase offers didn't exactly flood the inbox. Sixth in the Del Mar Juvenile Turf Stakes Sept. 7, Rombauer showed the first sign of real quality with a fast-closing second in the American Pharoah Stakes-G1, his first start on dirt, at Santa Anita Sept. 26. He was 26-1 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 at Keeneland in November, and rallied from 11th early to finish fifth.

Rombauer won his 3-year-old debut with a wild come-from-behind charge in the El Camino Real Derby, going 1⅛ miles on the synthetic track at Golden Gate Fields Feb. 13. The victory came with a free entry to the Preakness and 10 Kentucky Derby points. McCarthy was thinking Derby, and sent Rombauer to the Blue Grass Stakes-G2 at Keeneland April 3. He finished third behind Essential Quality and Highly Motivated, adding another 20 to the points total.

McCarthy wanted to run on the first Saturday in May. The Fradkins weren't so sure.

"I was bullish on running the horse in the Kentucky Derby," said the trainer. "I had mentioned it a couple of times to John and Diane. They seemed to think that this was the better route. I thought he'd get a wonderful setup, tons of pace in there. I thought it would be over a racetrack that he would really like. Usually on Derby Day, Churchill Downs is hard and fast, and I think that's what this horse has kind of been wanting all along."

John Fradkin handicapped the prospects of running a closer who may or may not be better on turf in the 20-horse rodeo of the Kentucky Derby, and told his trainer the Preakness was the better option.

"We had a pretty heated discussion about that, let's just leave it at that," the owner said. "You know, I can understand why Michael wanted him to run, but I think he can understand why I didn't want him to run.

"I thought if we ran in the Derby he would run his best race ever, but he would just get hot and dirty and not win any money. I feel like he's a stakes horse and if he's going to run his best race ever, you want him earning some money. I thought he had a much better chance here."

So they skipped the Derby.

Preakness Dreaming

With six weeks between the Blue Grass and the Preakness, Rombauer went to work at Santa Anita and thrived. He breezed a half-mile in :48.20 April 16 and then fired

Medina Spirit leads the field past the Pimlico grandstand with a lap to go in the Preakness.

three consecutive 5-furlong moves in 59 seconds and change, the last coming May 8. McCarthy wasn't planning to leave any oats in the tub.

"You've got a fresh horse and you'd hate to think you led one over that wasn't ready to run, that was maybe a work short," he said Wednesday while dodging Rombauer's teeth. "He's trained well, he's sharp. He seems like he's coming into it the right way."

Rombauer arrived at Pimlico after a flight from California and a Brook Ledge van ride from the airport Tuesday. A Thursday gallop—with a joyful lead change at the top of the stretch—signaled his readiness.

McCarthy felt his horse could have been a little bit closer to the early pace in the El Camino Real Derby, and would have preferred he be a bit farther back in the early stages of the Blue Grass. The ideal Preakness setup would be some sort of happy medium.

"I'd like to see them scorch the earth the first half-mile," the trainer said. "I'd like to see the horse get away from there cleanly, find himself in a good spot going up the backside and hope every horse is doing as well as they can possibly be doing and let him run his race. Hopefully it's good enough."

Medina Spirit wired the Derby field, without feeling much pressure until the stretch. He wasn't going to surprise anyone this time. Concert Tour liked to race up front too. Midnight Bourbon got bumped leaving the gate in the Derby and lost his opportunity to be forward. The Preakness might be different.

As different as burgoo and crabcakes.

Medina Spirit broke like a Quarter Horse from post three, putting a quick length on Keepmeinmind to the inside as John Velazquez hustled the favorite to the lead. Two stalls to the right, Midnight Bourbon and Irad Ortiz Jr. matched the move and advanced to the leader's girth as the field passed the finish line the first time. Concert Tour was third and wide, followed by headstrong Japanese runner France Go de Ina just outside Crowded Trade. Rombauer raced in sixth, between Ram on the rail and Risk Taking, with Keepmeinmind and Unbridled Honor at the back through a quarter-mile in :23.77. Still pressured by Midnight Bourbon, Medina Spirit reached a half-mile in :46.93 and led up the backside. Approaching the far turn, France Go de Ina moved to third and applied a little pressure to the leader's inside as Concert Tour retreated. Rombauer was fifth and in touch.

"The hole card for this horse is his stamina and his smarts," McCarthy said. "He has both of those. He will, I think, run as far as they write races. But he has no quit in him. All he knows to do is just run, and he lays it down every time."

Prat went between Concert Tour and France Go de Ina after 6 furlongs in 1:10.97 and moved to third. Midnight Bourbon, called "an Adonis" by his trainer Steve Asmussen earlier in the day, glided up to challenge Medina Spirit for real near the end of the turn and Velazquez had to ask his horse to respond. The Derby winner fought back, but was no match as Ortiz and Midnight Bourbon cruised to the front at the quarter pole.

They would soon get company. Rombauer responded to Prat's left-handed reminder coming off the turn, filling the bridle and going after the new leader as

M.J.C. PHOTO

Rombauer makes his way to the infield winner's circle for the television cameras.

Medina Spirit weakened. Rombauer came out from behind Midnight Bourbon after a mile in 1:34.78, powered past at the eighth pole and drew off in the final yards. Midnight Bourbon stayed for second, 2 lengths clear of Medina Spirit as Keepmeinmind checked in fourth.

McCarthy watched it unfold with the typical trainer's mix of apprehension and, ultimately, appreciation.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Trainer Michael McCarthy (left) hoists the Preakness trophy for owners John and Diane Fradkin.

"Turning up the backside, I was a little concerned," he said. "He's usually a little bit farther back than that. It's kind of reminiscent of the Preakness here, laying a little bit closer to the lead. Coming through the half-mile pole, it looked like the horse was still traveling well . . . looked at the horses behind us, didn't see anybody posing a threat behind us. Two horses in the lead obviously carried each other through the quarter pole. When we wheeled out coming to the three-sixteenths pole the head of the lane, I started to get excited."

Down on the track, Prat was seeing and feeling the same things.

"Never intended to rush him," the jockey said. "Naturally down the backside he was traveling well and was passing horses one by one. So I was pretty confident going to the three-eighths pole, and then . . . I was behind two—some of the favorites in the race—and I was traveling well, and I thought, well, maybe if he switched out and gave me a good kick, I might be able to run them down."

Prat won the 2019 Kentucky Derby with Country House via the disqualification of Maximum Security, but had never crossed the finish line first in a Triple Crown race.

He celebrated with a satisfied pump of his right fist, a big slap on his mount's neck, two long "Woooh" shouts and a galloping-out high five with Ortiz as Rombauer geared down.

"Well, of course it's a lot different when you cross the wire first," Prat said. "You get that feeling where it's a lot of joy."

There was plenty, even if Rombauer briefly defied McCarthy's mid-week nod to the horse's brainpower and composure just before the race.

Saddled in Pimlico's indoor paddock, like all but France Go de Ina and Keepmeinmind, Rombauer spilled his wine on the turf course saddling area—jigging in tight circles while eyeballing Midnight Bourbon. Groom Leonel Orantes Aguilar earned his paycheck after McCarthy legged up Prat as Rombauer served up a few light bucks, a forward jump or two and some sideways twists and turns before joining the lead pony.

The (mis)behavior went away in the post parade, and really wasn't a factor—though his trainer laughed about it afterward.

"I looked like a bit of a liar when he got out there on the grass," McCarthy said outside the stakes barn Saturday night. "He was pretty sharp."

Don't turn your back on him.

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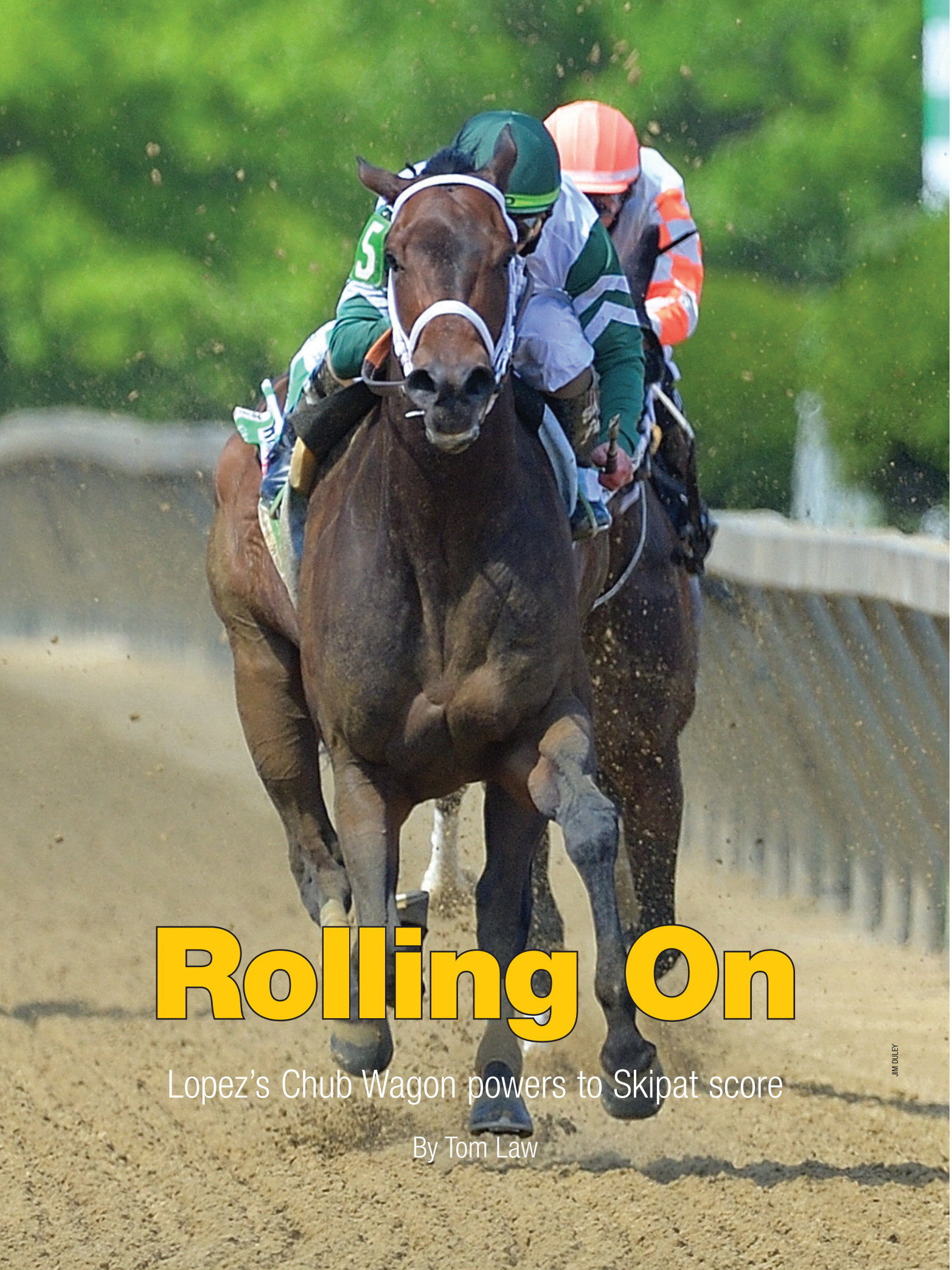


Rolling On

Lopez's Chub Wagon powers to Skipat score

By Tom Law

JIM DULEY

Danny Lopez watched the last few strides of Chub Wagon's latest tally, shook hands with his trainer, accepted a few congratulations and went back five decades.

"The first time I was in there was 50 years ago," Lopez said, pointing to the Pimlico Race Course winner's circle while he walked from the owners' boxes after Chub Wagon improved to 6-for-6 in the $100,000 Runhappy Skipat Stakes on the Preakness Day undercard May 15. "That's a long time ago. One of my first winners was right here."

If he remembered that winner–he registered 12 as a trainer and 10 as an owner in 1971–Lopez wasn't letting on.

"Do I remember the horse? No," he said.

A good one like Chub Wagon, co-bred in Pennsylvania by Lopez's Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut, can have such an effect. The 4-year-old daughter of Lopez's stallion Hey Chub and the Lion Heart mare Takin the Plunge won the 6-furlong Skipat by 2 lengths under Irad Ortiz Jr., coming from off the pace this time but still winning in a sharp 1:09.71.

Chub Wagon never trailed in her previous five starts, winning by a combined 32¼ lengths, but after a few jumps the 6-5 favorite in the field of seven found herself a couple lengths back. She was third through an opening quarter of :22.87 behind Donletsweetfoolya with French Empire to her outside.

Ortiz, who rode the filly in an open-company allowance victory at Aqueduct April 2, didn't worry about the early disadvantage.

"She relaxed more," he said. "I broke out of there, I see the other horse had some speed, so I just went to Plan B. She relaxed."

Ortiz tipped Chub Wagon off the rail turning for home and she rolled past the leader, opened up and held off the late run of 3-1 third choice Casual, who nosed Club Car for second.

"I knew she could do that," Lopez said. "I trained her at Monmouth last year before the end of the meet, then I gave her to [Guadalupe Preciado]. I told him, 'She's quick, she rates and she'll win.' I didn't know she was this good, but she just kept improving."

Preciado trains the filly at Parx Racing, where Chub Wagon won the restricted Unique Bella Stakes 18 days before the Skipat.

"We wanted to try to do that [come from off the pace], and today was the perfect day," Preciado said. "We wanted to see if she could rate in case, one day. . . we know whether we can do it or not. It worked out good. We know she can come from behind."

Lopez previously stood Hey Chub, a multiple stakes-winning son of Carson City he bred and owned, at his farm in Medford, N.J. Lopez moved his breeding operation–which produced six Pennsylvania-breds in 2021–to the Keystone State before Chub Wagon was born. Hey Chub and Lopez's other horses are boarded in the equine program at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown.

Chub Wagon is the third foal out of the unraced Takin the Plunge, bred by Lopez out of the stakes-producing Sassy Broad. Chub Wagon's 7-year-old full-sister Chubofftheoldblock placed in a stakes last year and was retired with $177,388 in earnings.

Takin the Plunge is also the dam of unraced 3-year-old Uncle Lino colt Helosthismarbles in training with Preciado at Parx and a yearling filly by Hey Chub. She was also bred back to Hey Chub last year.

"Her half-brother is fast, too. Every good horse he bred can run," Preciado said. "He's got nice horses and he owns the stallion. When he came to me about training her, he said she was a nice filly. He left her with me and I said, 'Well, I guess you don't like the stallion that much.' I was playing with him. I'm very happy to have her, she's fast and we try to do the right thing with her."

Not so Mean

Alex Campbell Jr. bred his Grade 1-winning mare Karlovy Vary to Scat Daddy in 2015 and named the resulting foal for assistant Mary Venezie–with a wink and a nod.

Venezie isn't mean and her namesake has proven to be well worth her early troublesome reputation as she added the $150,000 Gallorette Stakes-G3 to a growing list of achievements. Sent off at 4-5 in a field of five, Mean Mary broke running for Luis Saez and was never threatened through fractions of :25.27, :50.92 and 1:15.29. She came home much faster than she started and stopped the clock at 1:43.10 for 1 1/16 miles. Vigilantes Way finished a half-length behind in second. Mean Mary improved to 6-for-10 with $606,160 in earnings.

She became a millionaire three weeks later when she wired the $750,000 New York Stakes-G2 at Belmont Park June 4. Based in Maryland with trainer Graham Motion, she made her debut at Laurel Park in 2019 at 3 but her subsequent starts–including three additional graded wins and a second in Saratoga's Diana Stakes-G1 last summer–came in Kentucky, Florida and New York before the Preakness Day win.

"It was perfect. I couldn't have asked for anything else, really," said Motion of Mean Mary's first start since November. "I didn't know that they would let her go that easy on the lead. My main concern was that she was settled, that she was relaxed."

Venezie was anything but, after a hectic 24 hours complete with emergency-room visit, doctor's clearance, flight from Florida and just-in-time arrival at Pimlico. Campbell, 93, needed stitches to close a gash on the back of his head from a fall at home but stood tall in the winner's circle in Baltimore.

"We didn't know if he was going to be able to come and it was all very stressful," said Venezie. "We made it and you know it means a lot to him. We got here when they were loading up [in the starting gate] and barely got here in time. It's great to be here. He loves Baltimore and loves seeing her run."

Venezie considers the name an honor now–especially when she thinks about the connection with her boss.

"I got lucky when I found him," she said. "He has been a blessing in my life, my entire life. He is such a classy person, so wonderful and so kind. He named a great horse after me, so I'm thrilled. He had a little fun with me, and I didn't like it at first, but I love it now. She's so special to watch."

FUELED BY The Mill

'Dance' card

Brad Cox shipped a strong contingent of five horses from his main string at Churchill Downs for Preakness Weekend, leaving behind Kentucky Derby

RICK BUCKLEY

Ears pricked and striding out, Mean Mary takes command early in the Gallorette. She led the whole way.

runners Mandaloun and Essential Quality. Two looked like they could be favored–Adventuring in the George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan-G2 and T D Dance in the James W. Murphy–and the latter wound up odds-on and the lone winner.

T D Dance, whose pedigree traces way back to John Mabee's multiple graded stakes-placed Maryland-bred Sophisticated Girl, improved to 3-for-5 with a 3¾-length win under Javier Castellano. Sent off at 9-10 off a win in late March on the turf at Fair Grounds, the 3-year-old son of Can the Man also won for the third time in four tries on the grass.

"The race was here. It was either this or the race Derby Day," Cox said of choosing Pimlico instead of the $500,000 American Turf-G2 May 1. "I thought this made a little bit more sense at this time of his career. Hopefully, we can compete with the horses on the NYRA circuit in the 3-year-old division. That's the goal.

"He has been a horse who in his last few races has been sort of leaning in a little bit. He seems to have straightened up. Javier said he galloped out really well and gave him confidence to think that he is a horse that would go further. He doesn't take a hold of the bit, but he is a horse that has learned to relax."

Firecrow blazes in McKay

How good was the ungraded Hot Springs Stakes in mid-March at Oaklawn Park? Just ask Ron Moquett, whose horses finished second and fourth.

"That last race was as tough as it gets," the trainer said after Firecrow lowered the course record for 5 furlongs in the $100,000 Jim McKay Turf Sprint Stakes while defeating a dozen rivals. Moquett's champion male sprinter Whitmore finished second in the Hot Springs, with the winner C Z Rocket and third Flagstaff coming back to win graded stakes.

Fourth in the Hot Springs, Firecrow returned to the turf for the first time since a distant ninth in a 5-furlong allowance on good ground Nov. 1, 2019, at Churchill Downs after a third in a similar spot about a month earlier at Keeneland.

"We were just waiting," Moquett said of the return to the grass after six starts on the dirt. "We thought he was very good on the turf, but they don't have any lawn at Oaklawn, and we weren't shipping all the way to Fair Grounds when the purses are so much better at Oaklawn. He's capable on the dirt. We figured we'd get back around to it, and today was the day. It showed he belonged."

Firecrow won by a neck over 8-5 favorite The Critical Way in :55.30, topping Ageless' course record :55.66 in the 2015 The Very One Stakes.

A $300,000 purchase at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale of 2-year-olds by Steve Young, Firecrow improved to 4-for-14 with $233,536 for Robert LaPenta and Harlow Stables.

Moquett also sent out Prodigious Bay, a Maryland-bred son of Bayern purchased by the Cella family for $110,000 at the 2019 Midlantic May sale, to an allowance win early on the Black-Eyed Susan Day card.

"We're tickled to death. We want to win these kinds of races on these kinds of days," Moquett said after Firecrow's win. "It helps my owners. It helps my career. It helps the barn. We want to win big races on big days, and races that matter. Win percentage doesn't mean anything if you can't win the big ones."

RICK BUCKLEY

Top: Firecrow gets by The Critical Way in the Jim McKay Turf Sprint. Right: T D Dance (second from right) scores in the James W. Murphy.

JIM DULEY

NOTES: **The King Cheek** started a big Preakness Day for Mid-Atlantic connections with a victory in the Sir Barton Stakes. Based at Parx with trainer Jamie Ness, the 3-year-old New York-bred son of the Laoban turned back 3-5 favorite Hozier in the stretch to win the 1 1/16-mile stakes by a head. The racing office hustled The King Cheek, claimed by Ness and Morris Kernan Jr. for $20,000 last September at Delaware Park, into the race with the prospect of a short field to face Rebel Stakes-G2 runner-up Hozier. "I always thought he was a two-turn horse," Ness said. "This was kind of a last-second entry. It was kind of a short field." The King Cheek improved to 4-for-9. . . **Steve Asmussen** took home the **$50,000 trainer bonus** offered by the MJC for participation in stakes thanks in part to a 1-2 finish by **Mighty Mischief** and **Maryland-bred Jaxon Traveler** in the $200,000 Chick Lang-G3 for 3-year-olds. Mighty Mischief, a homebred son of Into Mischief for Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt, won by 1¼ lengths in 1:09.74 for his third straight win after a second in his debut Feb. 7 at Oaklawn. The victory came full circle for the Heiligbrodts, who bred Mighty Mischief's stakes-winning granddam Lunargal and sold her for $210,000 at the 2006 Keeneland November sale. Lunargal later produced the winner Wealth Creation, a daughter of Super Saver purchased as a 2-year-old by Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable for $250,000 in 2014. A year after she sold for $45,000 at the 2016 Keeneland November sale, Corinne Heiligbrodt bought her carrying Mighty Mischief for $230,000 at Keeneland November. Asmussen trained four other Lang winners in Lantana Mob (2008), Holy Boss (2015), Mitole (2018) and Yaupon (2020), the latter two for the Heiligbrodts . . . The Preakness Day card produced record wagering results with the 14-race program bringing in total handle of $112,504,509, topping the previous mark of $99,852,653 set in 2019. ✹

–Additional reporting by Joe Clancy

Parade Ground

Army Wife wins Black-Eyed Susan for Three Diamonds, Maker, Finney

By Sean Clancy

"It's hard to step up to the plate if nobody gives you a bat." Sage words from 30-year-old bloodstock agent Ryder Finney.

Kirk Wycoff handed the bat, just one in Three Diamonds Farm's deep dugout, to Finney at the OBS Spring Sale of 2-year-olds in 2020. Wycoff owned a share in Hip 604, a daughter of Declaration of War, and wondered if he should keep or sell. Finney watched a 10⅕-second breeze, looked at the filly at the Grassroots consignment and advised Wycoff to keep the bay filly.

Finney signed the ticket for $190,000.

Eleven months later, Army Wife won the Grade 2 George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan at Pimlico for Three Diamonds, trainer Mike Maker and jockey Joel Rosario. Sent off third choice in the field of 10, Army Wife settled near the back before rolling to a 2¾-length win over Willful Woman and Lady Traveler.

"It means everything," Finney said. "There are a lot of very talented horse people out there who never get the opportunity."

Finney is the grandson of John Finney (Fasig-Tipton) and the son of Marylander Michael Finney (Yoiks!) and Kentuckian Meg Levy (Bluewater Sales). Those connections didn't connect Finney to horse racing until later, after Lawrenceville Prep School and the University of Pennsylvania.

"I grew up with it all around me and as a result I took it for granted when I was younger," said the 30-year-old. "I intended to do other things, it took me leaving Lexington to realize what Lexington is, all the amazing intersections Lexington represents. It took going other places to see that more clearly. It's fun when it works."

Army Wife is making it work.

Bred by J D Stuart and AR Enterprises, Army Wife fetched $50,000 from Patrice Miller/EQB from Bluegrass Thoroughbreds' consignment at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February sale in 2019. David McKathan and Jody Mihalic at Grassroots in Ocala prepped and profited at the OBS sale.

"My first impression was she fit the mold of the War Front, Declaration of War sire line that I look for, the white face, the plain bay, she fit all of that," Finney said, referring to stakes winner Empire of War and Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner Fire At Will who raced for Three Diamonds. "Beyond that, she was a very good mover, she looked like a very sound horse, plenty of bone, a lot to train on, no hints of soreness, she looked sturdy. I thought her work was excellent."

Finney and Wycoff have danced this dance before. Involved in all facets of the game, Wycoff counts on Finney to know his horses and help make decisions. Who leads? Depends.

"Kirk was very high on her. That process of looking at horses that Kirk is a partner in, trying to decide which direction to go, is a common one," Finney said. "In this case, I liked her as well, it was an easy one. We disagree other times for sure, we were on this page this time."

Just two months after the sale, Army Wife finished fourth in her debut at Saratoga. Two more tries against maidens in New York resulted in a third and a fifth before she broke out with a win at Churchill Downs in October. She finished her 2-year-old season with a second at Churchill. This year, she won an allowance at Gulfstream Park in her 3-year-old debut before finishing third in the Grade 3 Gazelle behind winner Search Results. The Black-Eyed Susan fit like a batting glove.

Of course, Finney was back at Bluewater Farm, helping with the sales yearlings.

"Joel and Maker had it under control. I did what I could from here," Finney joked. "It was totally surreal. Once she switched to her right lead and hit the front, when it was clear she was going to win, it took a while to sink in for sure. She hit the wire, I got excited of course, but it always takes a second to sort of sit back and get some perspective on what just happened."

It's 2021, texts messages and phone calls speed up that perspective, especially when it happens in your backyard of sorts.

"My family has so much history there, it was cool to do it there. There are a lot of people who are friends of mine in Baltimore but aren't directly in the Thoroughbred horse racing business, it was cool for them when they realized that I signed the ticket on her," Finney said. "I got a lot

Army Wife shows the way to the finish of Friday's Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2, part of a big weekend at Pimlico Race Course.

of messages from people who I hadn't talked to in a while, who I knew when I was younger, when I spent a lot of time up there with my dad. It was neat, I guess that's the word I would use."

Good word for a big bat.

Making A Weekend

Beyond the Black-Eyed Susan, Maker was a force at Pimlico–winning the Pimlico Special-G3 with Last Judgment Friday and also taking back-to-back stakes with Special Reserve in the Maryland Sprint-G3 and Somelikeithotbrown in the Dinner Party-G2 Saturday.

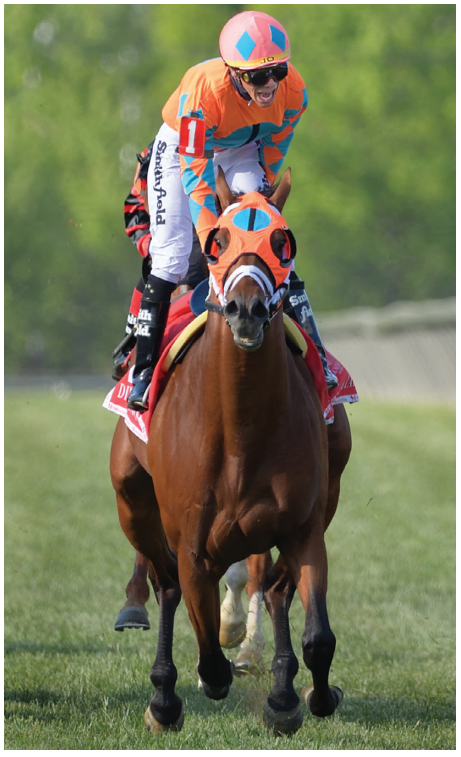
The four wins, from seven stakes starters, were not enough to win the Maryland Jockey Club's trainers' competition however as Steve Asmussen (who started 11 horses) piled up 54 points to Maker's 43 and claimed the $50,000 first prize. Asmussen won Friday's Chick Lang-G3 with Mighty Mischief and had five seconds led by Midnight Bourbon in the Preakness. To be eligible for the $100,000 bonus pool, trainers had to run at least five horses in the 15 Thoroughbred stakes Preakness weekend. Points were accumulated for first (10), second (seven), third (five), fourth (three) and fifth through last (one).

Maker wasn't counting points, but knew the score.

"Well, Steve Asmussen has had a lot more starters and some placings so it might be a lot closer than everybody thinks," Maker said after the Dinner Party. "I did like most of our horses, including a couple others that ran up the track, but that's the game. He ran first and second in the sprint stakes so that picks him up 17 points so that's almost like winning two stakes right there."

Maker wound up with a $25,000 bonus, and a weekend to remember. He said the incentive encourages him to look at the weekend, but he doesn't overdo it.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI



JIM DULEY

BILL DENVER (2)

Trainer Mike Maker enjoyed a banner Preakness Weekend with four graded stakes wins. Clockwise from top left: He celebrates the Black-Eyed Susan win with jockey Joel Rosario; Last Judgment lands the Pimlico Special; Special Reserve rolls in the Maryland Sprint; Somelikeithotbrown hits the line in the Dinner Party.

"I still try to place them proper and if it happens it happens," he said. "It's still a great weekend, a great time no matter if I get it or not. The races are competitive."

Racing for Michael Dubb, Steve Hornstock, Bethlehem Stables and Nice Guys Stables, Last Judgment led throughout in the Pimlico Special for Jose Ortiz and had plenty left to hold off Modernist by 1¾ lengths. Claimed for $62,500 in October, the 5-year-old won his third race for Maker –adding to January's Sunshine Classic for Florida-breds and March's Challenger-G3.

"That's what we were hoping for, but things don't always go to plan," Maker said of the front-running win. "He's all class, he tries hard."

The son of Congrats won for the eighth time in 18 starts and pushed his career earnings to $490,465.

Saturday's double started with the $150,000 Maryland Sprint, where Special Reserve ousted Asmussen's Strike Power. Ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., the winner shadowed the runner-up throughout and seized control in the stretch. Claimed by Maker for $40,000 in February, the son of Midshipman won for the sixth time in 19 starts and captured his first stakes.

One race later, Maker was back after New York-bred veteran Somelikeithotbrown rebounded from a seventh in the Maker's Mark Mile-G1 at Keeneland to wire seven foes in the $250,000 Dinner Party. From the inside post, Jose Ortiz let longshot Flying Scotsman head to the front and found an outside stalking spot before taking the lead in the stretch and holding back Talk Or Listen (Ire) by a length in 1:40.09 The winner set a course record for 1 1/16 miles on the turf.

Bred by Hot Pink Stables and Sand Dollar Stables, the son of Big Brown finished second in the 2020 Dinner Party and has won three graded stakes to go along with two of the ungraded variety since making his debut as a 2-year-old in 2018.

Maker credited a slight change in strategy. In the Maker's Mark, Somelikeithotbrown faded to seventh after getting pressed on the lead by Flying Scotsman.

"Jose and I talked about it," Maker said. "That horse broke a step slow and came to our outside and he never settled in the Maker's Mark. Today we said, 'Let that horse go and see if we can't get to the outside of him and I'll see you in the winner's circle.' "

The plan worked, as Somelikeithotbrown collected his seventh win and pushed his career earnings to $842,838 for Sand Dollar and Skychai Racing. ✹

– Additional reporting by Joe Clancy

JIM MCCUE

Positive Thinking

Caravel gets up in last step to win The Very One

By Joe Clancy and Tom Law

Walking down to the track from the outdoor horsemen's boxes after the $100,000 The Very One Stakes on Black-Eyed Susan Day, Lizzie Merryman argued with the doubts in her head.

All of them.

"She got beat. She got beat. She might be third. I don't know," Merryman said as the video board flashed a replay of a three-way photo finish. "She was third, she was third, she was third . . ."

And then everything stopped. Caravel's 3 glowed at the top of the board and breeder/owner/trainer Merryman let out an extended, "Yesssss." The gray filly, named the 2020 Pennsylvania-bred Horse of the Year a week later, got up in the 5-furlong turf race's final step to prevail by a nose over Gotta Go Mo with Victory Kingdom (Aus) another nose back in third. Sent off as 5-2 favorite in the field of 12, Caravel and Florent Geroux had to steady behind horses on the backside as Queen of Shades led through a first quarter-mile in :22.01, and again while looking for room along the rail in the stretch before getting through and winning the bob after :56.21.

The daughter of Mizzen Mast and the Congrats mare Zeezee Zoomzoom won for the fifth time (with two thirds) in seven starts while pushing her earnings to $212,872.

Caravel won the first three starts of her career last year, finished third in the 1-mile Hilltop on Preakness Day Oct. 3, just failed to meet her reserve at $330,000 in the Wanamaker's Sale five days later and rebounded to win the Malvern Rose Stakes at Presque Isle Downs Oct. 22. She popped a splint in that race, and went to Merryman's farm for some turnout and a winter break. She returned with a third at Belmont Park in the License Fee Stakes April 30 and then delivered in The Very One. Merryman credited her filly's determination, and some work by exercise rider Damian Towler, who took over from 2020 morning pilot Danielle Hodsdon.

"She's the gamest horse ever," said Merryman, who bases her racing stable at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland. "She's a little bit quieter to train and to gallop [than in 2020]. Dani just got too busy, and consistency seems to be important with Caravel. Damian trains a couple horses in my barn, and galloped for me years ago. He's a brilliant rider and can settle a filly like nobody else and she takes a lot of settling."

Merryman got Zeezee Zoomzoom for free (on the advice of friend Kim Brette) in 2016, and would have taken $350,000 for her daughter at the sale last year, but is happy the bid never came. The family now includes 3-year-old Bourbon Courage filly Tipsy Chatter (who won at Delaware Park May 26), 2-year-old Great Notion gelding Witty, a Holy Boss yearling colt and a Great Notion colt of 2021. Zeezee Zoomzoom was bred to Street Boss this year.

"The mare lets the sire stamp the foals because none of them remotely resemble each other, but they're all lovely," Merryman said. "When Caravel was a yearling, I went to the sale and walked around and looked at all those yearlings and they were hard to even take seriously compared to the one I had at home. I just loved her right from the start. I don't know how this happened. I'm so fortunate."

Doubled Up

Fair Hill picked up another stakes win two races after Caravel when Alda (John Velazquez) streaked home in the $100,000 Hilltop Stakes for 3-year-old fillies on the turf for trainer Graham Motion.

Alda found an early spot 11 lengths behind early leader Proper Attire and came running in the stretch to hold off the unlucky Seasons by a neck in 1:35.06 for a mile. Arm Candy was a nose behind in third. Seasons, based at Fair Hill with Jimmy Toner, stumbled leaving the gate and was some 20 lengths behind after a quarter-mile.

A Wertheimer et Frere homebred, Alda won for the third time in seven lifetime starts after winning twice last year, placing in Woodbine's Natalma Stakes-G1 and finishing 12th in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1. Off a five-month layoff, she opened 2021 with a sixth while sprinting on the turf at Keeneland April 9 before the Pimlico win. That race worked

JIM DULEY

Maddie Rowland leads Caravel and Florent Geroux back to the winner's circle after the narrow win.

BILL DENVER

Based at Fair Hill like Caravel, Alda (right) digs in late to win the Hilltop Stakes over another Fair Hill-based runner Seasons (center) and Arm Candy.

as a prep, even if that wasn't necessarily the plan.

"She's very precocious in the morning and I thought she could handle it," Motion said. "She ran OK that day, but clearly that's not her best. I thought she would handle it because she's very quick. I misjudged it a little bit, how tough it would come up, because it was a salty group, but it helped us here so I'm OK with it."

The daughter of Munnings and the Maria's Mon mare Soldata traces to Canadian champion Fanfreluche who gained renown when stolen from Claiborne Farm in 1977 while in foal to Secretariat.

The dam of two-time Canadian Horse of the Year L'Enjoleur and two other champions (La Voyageuse and Medaille d'Or) was found by the FBI five months later near the Tennessee border and delivered a colt later named Sain Et Sauf ("Safe And Sound" in French).

FUELED BY The Mill

Shades of Alysheba

A similar set of silks to those carried to victory 34 years ago by Alysheba in the Preakness that put him on the doorstep of history visited the Pimlico winner's circle when Red Ghost bounced back in the stretch to win the $150,000 Miss Preakness Stakes-G3.

The 3-year-old Ghostzapper filly races for her breeder Douglas Scharbauer, the son of the late Dorothy and Clarence Scharbauer Jr. who toasted Alysheba's victory with their daughter Pam at the 1987 Preakness. She's out of the Texas-bred Elusive Quality mare Better Than Most, a daughter of Alysheba's graded stakes-winning full-sister Alysbelle bought by Clarence Scharbauer as a yearling for $950,000 at the 1990 Keeneland July sale.

Carrying Velazquez in Scharbauer's blue and white diagonal striped colors–the same blue hue but without the white and blue diamonds of the Alysheba days–Red Ghost took the lead early in the 6-furlong Miss Preakness before losing it in the stretch to Euphoric. Inside the sixteenth pole Red Ghost found another gear and won a three-way photo with Euphoric and Joyful Cadence for her first stakes win in four starts.

Red Ghost gave trainer Wesley Ward his second Miss Preakness win, following Happy Like a Fool in 2018, and Velazquez his third after winning in 2011 with R Holiday Mood and Lost Raven in 2016.

"She got passed, almost a length," Velazquez said. "She was looking to the inside and the other horses passed her. She didn't even care. She kept looking to the inside and leaning out and I got after her. I got after her at the three-sixteenths pole and she came back."

Red Ghost won her debut–an off-the-turf maiden at Saratoga last summer–by 8½ lengths before trying stakes company on the turf at Kentucky Downs. She finished a well-beaten seventh in the $400,000 Untapable Stakes before going to the sidelines. Red Ghost returned with a 2-length win on the dirt April 16 at Keeneland, with Velazquez aboard, before shipping from Ward's base there for the Miss Preakness.

"John said she was backing up a little bit when the horses went by her," said David Flores, the former jockey and Ward's assistant who made the trip to Baltimore.

"When he got after her she looked like she was not done. He felt like he had horse. She is very competitive, and she was able to make a comeback."

Flavor prevails in duPont

Todd Pletcher won stakes going long and short (including a 7-furlong Grade 1) with Pennsylvania-bred Dame Dorothy several years ago, but always felt like the farther the better when it came to her daughter Spice Is Nice.

She didn't run shorter than a mile while winning twice as a 3-year-old in 2020, and Pletcher chalked up poor tries in the Gulfstream Park Oaks-G2 and Alabama-G1 to the filly just needing "a little time to get it all together." Spice Is Nice has thus far proven the newly elected Hall of Fame trainer correct with a season-opening allowance score at Keeneland going 1 1/16 miles April 9 and a victory in the Allaire duPont Distaff-G3 going 1⅛ miles.

The daughter of Preakness winner Curlin dogged leader Dreamalildreamofu from the start, and won a battle in the stretch to score by 1½ lengths in the first of six consecutive stakes on the day.

"She's a filly we've always thought a lot of," Pletcher said after Spice Is Nice won for owners Robert and Lawana Low. "She's a big strong filly . . . After the Alabama last year, she just lost some weight and we needed to regroup and gave her some time off. It seems like it has paid dividends."

Bred by celebrity chef Bobby Flay and the first foal for her dam, Spice Is Nice won for the fourth time in seven starts after being purchased for $1.05 million by agent Jacob West at Keeneland September in 2018. Flay offered, but did not sell, Dame Dorothy the following year at Keeneland November (a $3.1 million RNA) and he's also the breeder of her unnamed 2-year-old Medaglia d'Oro colt who sold for $650,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale, and her yearling colt by Uncle Mo.

"We always liked this filly since she was very young," Velazquez said of Spice Is Nice. "She's a big filly. She's come back better this year. She's stronger mentally and kind of put it all together."

Bred by Bettina Jenney's Derry Meeting Farm, Dame Dorothy, a daughter of Preakness winner Bernardini, sold to Flay for $390,000 as a yearling and won races as diverse as the Malvern Rose Stakes for state-breds at Presque Isle Downs and the Humana Distaff-G1 at Churchill Downs before retiring with $749,740 in earnings. Jenney raced her dam Vole Vole Monamour, her stakes-winning granddam A Votre Sante and her Grade/Group 1-winning half-sister Mrs. Lindsay, all Pennsylvania-breds, in France. Another Keystone State star, multiple European champion Mrs. Penny, is Spice Is Nice's fifth dam.

BILL DENVER

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Above: Red Ghost (right) prevails a three-way stretch battle with Euphoric (center) and Joyful Cadence to win the Miss Preakness for trainer Wesley Ward. Below: Out of Pennsylvania-bred star Dame Dorothy, Spice Is Nice (left) leads everybody home in the Allaire duPont for trainer Todd Pletcher.

NOTES: The Maryland Jockey Club reported record total handle of $27,675,687 for the 14-race Black-Eyed Susan Day card, topping the previous mark of $22,281,300 for the same card in 2019 . . . The big handle number was fueled by strong turnout at the entry box as the day featured 147 starters. No field was smaller than eight and the finale, a 1-mile maiden claimer for fillies and mares on the turf, attracted 14 runners. Fittingly, the winner wore saddle towel 14 as Maryland-bred Why Not Tonight pulled a 27-1 upset for Country Life Farm and trainer Mike Trombetta. ✹

Preakness Weekend Stakes Results

5/14 George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan-G2 ($250K). 1⅛ mi. 3YO F.

Winner: **ARMY WIFE** (b.f., DeclaratŠn of War—Tread, by Arch). B-J D Stuart and AR Enterprises Inc. (Ky.). O-Three Diamonds Farm. T-Michael Maker. J-Joel RosarŠ. Time: 1:49.63. Margin: 2¾. 2nd: **Willful Woman**. 3rd: **Lady Traveler**.

5/14 Pimlico Special-G3 ($250K). 1 3/16 mi. 3&up.

Winner: **LAST JUDGMENT** (b.g., 5, Congrats—Fantasy Forest, by Forestry). B-Woodford Thoroughbreds (Fla.). O-Michael Dubb, Steve Hornstock, Bethlehem Stables and Nice Guys Stables. T-Michael Maker. J-Jose Ortiz. Time: 1:54.37. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Modernist**. 3rd: **Fearless**.

5/14 Allaire duPont Distaff-G3 ($150K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **SPICE IS NICE** (ch.f., 4, Curlin—Dame Dorothy, by Bernardini). B-B. Flay Thoroughbreds (Ky.). O-Lawana and Robert Low. T-Todd Pletcher. J-John Velazquez. Time: 1:48.71. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **Dreamalildreamofu**. 3rd: **Getridofwhatailesu**.

5/14 Miss Preakness-G3 ($150K). 6 F. 3YO F.

Winner: **RED GHOST** (ch.f., Ghostzapper—Better Than Most, by Elusive Quality). B/O-Douglas Scharbauer (Ky.). T-Wesley Ward. J-John Velazquez. Time: 1:10.53. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Euphoric**. 3rd: **Joyful Cadence**.

5/14 Hilltop ($100K). 1 mi. Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **ALDA** (ch.f., Munnings—Soldata, by Maria's Mon). B/O-Wertheimer et Frere (Ky.). T-Graham MotŠn. J-John Velazquez. Time: 1:35.06. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Seasons**. 3rd: **Arm Candy**.

5/14 The Very One ($100K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CARAVEL** (gr./ro.f., Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats). B/O/T-Elizabeth Merryman (Pa.). J-Florent Geroux. Time: :56.21. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Gotta Go Mo**. 3rd: **Victory Kingdom (Aus)**.

5/15 Preakness-G1 ($1M). 1 3/16 mi. 3YO.

Winner: **ROMBAUER** (b.c., Twirling Candy—Cashmere, by Cowboy Cal). B/O-John and Diane Fradkin (Ky.). T-Michael McCarthy. J-Flavien Prat. Time: 1:53.62. Margin: 3½. 2nd: **Midnight Bourbon**. 3rd: **Medina Spirit**.

5/15 Dinner Party-G2 ($250K). 1 1/16 mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **SOMELIKEITHOTBROWN** (b.h., 5, Big Brown—MarÕyn Monroan, by Tapit). B-Hot Pink Stables and Sand Dollar Stables (N.Y.). O-Skychai Racing and Sand Dollar Stable. T-Michael Maker. J-Jose Ortiz. Time: 1:40.09 (ncr). Margin: 1. 2nd: **Talk Or Listen (Ire)**. 3rd: **Midnight Tea Time**.

5/15 Chick Lang-G3 ($200K). 6 F. 3YO.

Winner: **MIGHTY MISCHIEF** (b.c., Into Mischief—Wealth CreatŠn, by Super Saver). B-HeÕigbrodt Racing Stable (Ky.). O-WÕliam and Corinne HeÕigbrodt. T-Steve Asmussen. J-Ricardo Santana Jr. Time: 1:09.74. Margin: 1¼. 2nd: **Jaxon Traveler**. 3rd: **Hemp**.

5/15 Gallorette-G3 ($150K). 1 1/16 mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **MEAN MARY** (dk.b./br.m., 5, Scat Daddy—Karlovy Vary, by Dynaformer). B-Alex G. Campbell Jr. Thoroughbreds (Ky.). O-Alex G. Campbell Jr. T-H. Graham MotŠn. J-Luis Saez. Time: 1:43.10. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Vigilantes Way**. 3rd: **Great Island**.

5/15 Maryland Sprint-G3 ($150K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **SPECIAL RESERVE** (b.g., 5, Midshipman—Love Spun, by Hard Spun). B-Russell L. Reineman Stable (Ky.). O-Paradise Farms Corp. and David Staudacher. T-Michael J. Maker. J-Irad Ortiz Jr. Time: 1:08.91. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Strike Power**. 3rd: **Frosted Grace**.

5/15 James W. Murphy ($100K). 1 mi. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **T D DANCE** (dk.b./br.c., Can the Man—Sheza Sweet Lemon, by Lemon Drop Kid). B-Sovereign Farm (Ky.). O-Madaket Stables, Wonder Stable, Paul Farr and Team Hanley. T-Brad Cox. J-Javier Castellano. Time: 1:34.89. Margin: 3¾. 2nd: **Arzak**. 3rd: **Charles Chrome**.

5/15 Jim McKay Turf Sprint ($100K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **FIRECROW** (b.g., 5, Maclean's Music—Cheyenne Autumn, by Indian Charlie). B-Johnson, Galvin and Flounders (Ky.). O-Robert LaPenta and Harlow Stables. T-Ron Moquett. J-Joel RosarŠ. Time: :55.30 (ncr). Margin: neck. 2nd: **The Critical Way**. 3rd: **Completed Pass**.

5/15 Sir Barton ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. 3YO.

Winner: **THE KING CHEEK** (b.g., Laoban—Selfie, by War Chant). B-Pucker Ridge Farm (N.Y.). O-Morris Kernan Jr. and Jagger Inc. T-Jamie Ness. J-Jaime Rodriguez. Time: 1:42.81. Margin: head. 2nd: **Hozier**. 3rd: **Romp**.

5/15 Skipat ($100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CHUB WAGON** (b.f., 4, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by LŠn Heart). B-Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut (Pa.). O-Daniel Lopez and George Chestnut. T-Guadalupe Preciado. J-Irad Ortiz Jr. Time: 1:09.71. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Casual**. 3rd: **Club Car**.

Checkmate

Quality 2-year-olds push May sale to new records

By Joe Clancy. Photographs by Fasig-Tipton

After 426 horses went through the ring and some $33 million in bids rattled around the sales pavilion during Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's annual 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., May 17-18, Paget Bennett checked off items as if she were going through a grocery list.

"Record gross, record average, record median and an RNA rate of 16 percent," said the sales director, glancing at some notes. "That was huge."

The whole thing was huge. A year after being delayed more than a month because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and logging declines across all categories, the sale rocketed to new highs. The gross went past $33.6 million, up 43 percent over 2020 and 15 percent over 2019. The average hit $94,375, up 21 percent over 2020 and 5 percent over 2019. The median went to $50,000 from $40,000 in 2020 and $43,500 in 2019. The buy-back rate was the lowest since 2013.

A $1.5 million colt led the way, but was the only seven-figure purchase—meaning the sale's true strength spread deeper into the results. Consignors offered quality horses. Buyers battled. The numbers surged. And nobody seemed too concerned about the economy, Covid or anything else trying to pump uncertainty (federal legislation, a positive test in the Kentucky Derby, whip rules, trainer indictments…) into the industry.

"People are wanting horses and they were here and luckily we had horses they wanted and it all added up," said Bennett, sounding mystified but also trusting the marketplace's ability to adapt. "They fought to the end to get them. Even in the supplement we had a lot of strong results. It's nice to have what they want."

Signs pointed to quality early in the process for Fasig-Tipton. The sales company held its Florida 2-year-old sale as usual in late March (after canceling it in 2020), and saw the gross surpass $25 million from a small catalog with just 67 horses sold. In advance of Timonium, which put 570 in the main catalog and another 17 in a supplement, credit applications increased, as did inquiries about travel arrangements such as private airports. Finally, traffic on the sales grounds soared all week—over three days of timed workouts and three days of showing afterward.

"We had a great breeze show and then the activity on Friday so you just kind of go, 'This is good, this is good . . .'" said Bennett. "Saturday and Sunday it was very busy. You just get encouraged by what you see, who you see and you just hope it translates. [Monday] the pavilion was full of people, the parking areas were jam-packed and it translated to horses getting sold."

Through agent Donato Lanni, Marylander Michael Lund Petersen bought the sales-toppers at Timonium in 2019 (eventual champion Gamine for a record $1.8 million) and 2020 (an Uncle Mo colt for $1.1 million) but was not on the buyers' list in 2021. Lanni was there, and bought horses for other clients, along with most major buyers from around the industry.

"We had other people buying at that level," said Bennett. "It's nice that there are other people who can make this sale successful."

West Point Thoroughbreds landed the 2021 sales-topper on the first day, bidding $1.5 million to add Hip 211 to the squad. The Kentucky-bred Quality Road colt, consigned by Eddie Woods for breeder Jon Clay's Alpha Delta Stables, breezed a furlong in 10 seconds, co-fastest of the sale, and turned heads all over the sales grounds. A little behind as a yearling, the dark bay didn't go to a sale in 2020 but blossomed at the right time as a 2-year-old.

"Very straightforward horse, a little immature to begin with, then he got going and once we started working him, he was the man," said Woods. "That's a nice feeling. It was the case that it would go well if we didn't mess it up. He's supposed to keep maturing too. Quality Roads take a little bit of time, and it will all work to his benefit."

Since named Vinco and sent to trainer Dallas Stewart, the sales-topper packed plenty of pedigree into his catalog page too as a half-brother to the stakes-placed Tapit filly Welcoming and four-time winner Weather Wiz. Third dam Weekend Surprise (by Secretariat) is one of the most successful broodmares in racing as the dam of classic winner, Hall of Famer, Horse of the Year and leading sire A.P. Indy; classic

Consignor Eddie Woods enjoyed a banner week at Timonium, selling the sales-topping Quality Road colt (above) for $1.5 million and a Malibu Moon colt for $700,000.

winner Summer Squall; as well as the colt's graded stakes-winning second dam Welcome Surprise. The family extends to Grade 1 winner Court Vision, 2020 Grade 1 winner Happy Saver, Group 1 winner Wolfhound and a long list of others.

"That's a family you can't find anymore," said Woods, in an understatement. "He just wasn't ready for a yearling sale and we were the beneficiary of that."

The Woods consignment had set the market earlier in the day when Hip 164, a Malibu Moon colt owned by Bill Harrigan and partners, sold to Alex Elliott and Ben McElroy for $700,000. The bay colt also worked a furlong in 10 seconds, after being withdrawn from the Florida sale.

"The gods are probably with us because he didn't make it there," Woods said. "He got shins, and we just had to back up and correct them. He came here and away we went."

Woods topped the sale for the first time since 2015 and led all consignors by average at $280,556 with nine of his 12 offered sold for $2,525,000. No consignor knows what a sale holds ahead of time, but

Woods was confident the two leaders were in a good spot.

"I knew those horses had a good chance, both of them, to bring a lot of money," he said. "I can't tell you I thought they were going to bring that, but that's the beauty of the auction process. They looked great, worked great, got a pedigree, here they go. It's been a good sale top to bottom. There were people here from all levels. At times, it was pretty lively now."

And a long way from 2020 as Woods stayed on the farm in Florida due to the pandemic and just tried to ride out the unknowns.

"We didn't go anywhere, we stayed at home, the better horses we sold privately, but we sold them soft compared to what they'd have brought in the marketplace but at the same point we were grateful to get them done," he said. "We lost some money, quite a bit in some spots, but we still had enough to play again and this year has been great. It's amazing how resilient our industry is, with all the stuff that's going on at the moment."

Before Timonium, Woods led all consignors by gross at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March sale and was second at Fasig-Tipton Florida. The success is good for business, and morale.

"It's great to be around good horses," he said. "The crew will have bragging rights over the rest of the field. They take a good interest in what's going on. It's hard work to sell horses."

Mac Robertson bought the sale's top-priced filly, signing a $625,000 ticket for Xtreme Racing Stables to land a daughter of Tapit from De Meric Sales. Hip 492 tried to make buyers think of her dam Gomo, who won Keeneland's Darley Alcibiades Stakes-G1 as a 2-year-old in 2015. The bay Florida-bred worked a furlong in 10⅕ seconds and really caught Robertson's attention.

"I thought she was the best filly in the sale and they're looking for really good fillies and I thought she had the best breeze," he said. "She's out of a Grade 1 horse by a sire that everybody wants so it made sense to me. We went a little more than we wanted, but the sale is strong."

The filly was headed to Robertson's father Hugh at Arlington Park, where the next steps will be determined.

"If a horse needs time, they'll send them to the farm," Robertson said. "It makes it easier to give a lot of money. Some horses need time off, it's no different than claiming a horse. If she needs a break, she'll get it."

Regional Success

Bidding for Lady Sheila Stable, agent Kerri Radcliffe went to $460,000 to buy

Top-priced 2-year-olds

Colts

$1,500,000 Dk.b./br.c. Quality Road—Stormy Welcome, by Storm Cat (Ky.); Eddie Woods, agent X; West Point Thoroughbreds/ L.E.B., agent.

$700,000 B.c. Malibu Moon—Seeking Atlantis, by Seeking the Gold (Ky.); Eddie Woods, agent XXIII; Elliott and McElroy.

$490,000 B.c. Practical Joke—April Snow, by Candy Ride (Arg) (Ky.); Niall Brennan Stables, agent I; Spendthrift Farm.

$460,000 Dk.b./br.c. Munnings—Tweet, by Medaglia d'Oro (Pa.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agent; Lady Sheila Stable, Kerri Radcliffe, agent.

$450,000 B.c. Gormley—D D Renegade, by Medallist (Md.); Chris Seale (Bird In Hand Stables); Mayberry Farm.

$425,000 Ch.c. Gormley—Mott N Hester, by Super Saver (Ky.); Robert Brewer, agent; Joseph Besecker.

$400,000 B.c. Gun Runner—Day of Victory, by Victory Gallop (Ky.); Sequel Bloodstock, agent; Lael Stable.

$400,000 Dk.b./br.c. Classic Empire—Hit the Limit, by Uncle Mo (Ky.); Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; Solis/Litt.

$380,000 Ch.c. Munnings—Market Lover, by Latent Heat (Ky.); Cary Frommer, agent; J.A.S.

$375,000 Ch.c. American Freedom—C R Vexora, by Graeme Hall (Ky.); All Dreams Equine, agent; Klaravich Stables.

$350,000 B.c. Maclean's Music—Coco Belle, by Storm Boot (Ky.); Shamrock Stable; Alex and Jo Ann Lieblong.

$325,000 Dk.b./br.c. Midnight Storm—Dixie Dawn, by Dixie Union (N.Y.); Scanlon Training and Sales, agent XII; Rockingham Ranch, Nick J. Hines, agent.

$325,000 B.c. Liam's Map—Spangled Banner, by Tiz Wonderful (Ky.); Cary Frommer, agent; St Elias Stables.

$310,000 Ch.c. Nyquist—In It for the Gold, by Speightstown (N.Y.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agent V; ATR Club/Sobhy Sonbol, agent.

$290,000 Ch.c. Brody's Cause—Candy d'Oro, by Johannesburg (N.Y.); Sterling Thoroughbreds, agent; Mike Mellen, Larry Zap, agent.

$280,000 B.c. Constitution—Mrs. Mary S, by In the Woods (Pa.); Wavertree Stables (Ciaran Dunne), agent; Joe Bucci, Donato Lanni, agent.

$270,000 B.c. Practical Joke—Abundanceofcaution, by Kitten's Joy (Ky.); Excel Bloodstock (Bruno de Berdt), Scanlon Training and Sales, agent; Glenn Bennett/LC Racing.

$260,000 Dk.b./br.c. American Pharoah—High Quail, by Tiznow (Pa.); Randy Miles, agent III; Narvick Int'l.

$250,000 Ch.c. Classic Empire—Stop the Wedding, by Congrats (Ky.); Sequel Bloodstock, agent; BL Racing.

$250,000 B.c. Empire Maker—Lady Pewitt, by Orientate (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agent; Narvick Int'l.

Fillies

$625,000 B.f. Tapit—Gomo, by Uncle Mo (Fla.); De Meric Sales, agent; Xtreme Racing Stables.

$550,000 B.f. Classic Empire—Newbie, by Bernardini (N.Y.); Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent; Robert E. and Lawana Low, West Bloodstock, agent.

$400,000 B.f. Union Rags—Afleet Lass, by Northern Afleet (Ky.); Tom McCrocklin, agent; Alex and Jo Ann Lieblong.

$400,000 B.f. Uncle Mo—Corby, by Quality Road (Ky.); De Meric Sales, agent; Jonathan Thomas, agent.

$375,000 B.f. Empire Maker—Pontiana, by Deputy Minister (Ky.); McKathan Bros. Sales, agent; Gervais Racing and West Point Thoroughbreds.

$375,000 B.f. Quality Road—Moonlight Sky, by Sky Mesa (Ky.); Wavertree Stables Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), agent; Solis/Litt.

$360,000 B.f. Palace—Honky Tonk Angel, by Bluegrass Cat (Ky.); Top Line Sales, agent VII; Amo Racing USA, A.C. Elliott, agent.

$350,000 Gr./ro.f. Medaglia d'Oro—Mo Chuisle, by Free House (Ky.); Pike Racing, agent; D Hatman Thoroughbreds, Phil Schoenthal, agent.

$280,000 B.f. Upstart—Pret, by More Than Ready (Ky.); Wavertree Stables Inc. (Ciaran Dunne), agent VII; Arthur Hoyeau, agent.

$280,000 Ch.f. Nyquist—Jooma, by Empire Maker (Ky.); Paul Sharp, agent I; Mike Mellen.

the leading regional-bred—a Pennsylvania-bred colt by Munnings from consignor Wavertree Stables. Out of the Medaglia d'Oro mare Tweet, the colt was bred by Equivine Farm and sold for $55,000 at Keeneland September as a yearling. Hip 260 at Timonium, the dark bay colt is a half-brother to three winners.

Like any high-dollar 2-year-old, the Munnings colt shined at the sale but it was a progression.

"When we bought him, he was just a nice little horse," said Wavertree's Ciaran Dunne. "We weren't quite sure what we were going to do with him. He just blossomed, the closer we got to the sale the better he got. We were very excited with him coming up, but we had no idea where it was going to end up."

Just behind the Munnings colt came Hip 417, a Maryland-bred Gormley colt who brought $450,000 to spur a small celebration at the one-horse consignment of Chris and Margo Seale's Bird In Hand Stables. The Florida-based couple purchased the colt from breeder CandyLand Farm last year for $35,000 after he did not meet his reserve at Timonium's fall yearling sale.

"We shop this sale [for yearlings], it's a great sale for us and he was a buy-back,"

Hip 492, a daughter of Tapit, led all fillies at $625,000.

Ten-year figures for 2-year-old sale

	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2021	$33,692,000	$94,375	357	16.2	$1,500,000 dk.b./br.c. by Quality Road—Stormy Welcome, by Storm Cat; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent X; purchased by West Point Thoroughbreds/L.E.B., agent
2020	$23,572,500	$77,797	303	19.2	$1,100,000 dk.b./br.c. by Uncle Mo—Miss Ocean City, by Mineshaft; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent
2019	$29,374,000	$90,104	326	23.3	$1,800,000* Gamine, b.f. by Into Mischief—Peggy Jane, by Kafwain; consigned by Bobby Dodd, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent
2018	$24,868,500	$74,680	333	22.6	$1,200,000 Lebron J, b.c. by Medaglia d'Oro—Tapicat, by Tapit; consigned by Hartley/de Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Dennis O'Neill
2017	$25,237,000	$76,476	330	19.9	$1,500,000 Curlin's Honor, ch.c. by Curlin—Franscat, by Stormin Fever; consigned by Hartley/de Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Breeze Easy and John C. Oxley
2016	$23,136,400	$68,654	337	25.9	$1,000,000 Modest Maven, dk.b./br.f. by Uncle Mo—Dream Street, by Tale of the Cat; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Chester Broman, Linda Rice, agent
2015	$22,659,000	$88,859	255	21.5	$1,250,000 Garnet, b.f. by Smart Strike—Crystal Current, by A.P. Indy; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXIX; purchased by Ben McElroy, agent
2014	$19,601,000	$59,578	329	23.5	$520,000 Old Mountain Lane, b.c. War Front—Judy's Magic, by Wavering Monarch; consigned by Eisaman Equine, agent; purchased by Steven W. Young, agent.
2013	$16,675,000	$66,968	249	14.7	$450,000 Jazz Player, ch.c. Malibu Moon—Partyship, by Premiership; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXI; purchased by Gary Contessa for Wounded Warrior
2012	$16,721,000	$53,593	312	24.6	$575,000 Magic Daddy, ch.c. Scat Daddy—Magical Mist, by Congaree; consigned by Kings Equine, agent VII; purchased by Mercedes Stables
2011	$16,211,100	$47,263	343	18.1	$600,000 Ever So Lucky, b.c. Indian Charlie—Bally Storm, by Summer Squall; consigned by Sequel Bloodstock (Becky Thomas), agent; purchased by EQB Inc., agent

*** The highest-priced horse sold at public auction in Maryland.**

THE NUMBERS

Two-Year Figures

	2021	2020
Offered	426	375
Sold	357	303
Not sold	16.2%	19.2%
Gross	$33,692,000	$23,572,500
Average	$94,375	$77,797
Median	$50,000	$40,000

Leading Sires

Gross Sales

Quality Road (4) $2,245,000
Classic Empire (10) 1,730,000
Practical Joke (13) 1,415,000
Gormley (10) 1,309,000
American Freedom (8) 1,019,000
Empire Maker (5) 910,000
Munnings (4) 902,000
Malibu Moon (2) 847,000
Liam's Map (4) 820,000
Street Sense (10) 734,000

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Quality Road (4) $561,250
American Pharoah (3) 238,333
Gun Runner (3) 236,667
Munnings (4) 225,500
Liam's Map (4) 205,000
Empire Maker (5) 182,000
Midnight Storm (3) 174,667
Classic Empire (10) 173,000
Maclean's Music (4) 160,000
Frosted (3) 147,333

Leading Consignors

Gross Sales

De Meric Sales (18) $2,854,000
Eddie Woods (9) 2,525,000
Wavertree Stables (11) 2,185,000
Sequel Bloodstock (11) 1,787,000
Cary Frommer (12) 1,692,000
Kings Equine (12) 1,530,000
Julie Davies (19) 1,408,000
Scanlon Training & Sales (10) 1,267,000
Top Line Sales (15) 1,260,000
Paul Sharp (13) 1,252,000

Average (3 or more sold)

Eddie Woods (9) $280,556
Pike Racing (3) 206,667
Wavertree Stables (11) 198,636
Niall Brennan Stables (4) 173,750
McKathan Bros. Sales (4) 169,500
Robert Brewer (4) 167,500
Sequel Bloodstock (11) 162,455
De Meric Sales (18) 158,556
Cary Frommer (12) 141,000
Kings Equine (12) 127,500

Leading Buyers

West Point Thoroughbreds (Lane's End Bloodstock, agent) (2) $1,725,000
Joseph Besecker (23) 1,243,000
Alex & JoAnn Lieblong (3) 980,000
Narvick International (5) 950,000
Solis/Litt (2) 775,000
Elliott & McElroy (1) 700,000
Xtreme Racing Stables (1) 625,000
Gervais Racing & West Point Thoroughbreds (2) 600,000
Dennis O'Neill (5) 560,000
Robert E. & Lawana Low (West Bloodstock, agent) (1) 550,000

Hip 260, a Pennsylvania-bred colt by Munnings showed off on the track, and brought $460,000.

said Chris Seale. "We ended up going out to the farm, and got the deal finalized. There's just a ton of class there, a lot of good, back class in him and in the pedigree. That always shows."

The bay colt's female family goes off in several Mid-Atlantic directions. Dam D D Renegade (by Medallist) was bred by Tom and Chris Bowman, sold to CandyLand as a yearling and won two races for trainer Mike Trombetta. CandyLand bred her dam Glowing Honour, a daughter of Honour and Glory and the Dixieland Band mare Redeemer. The latter hails from a deep Rokeby Stable pedigree including Printing Press (dam of Grade 1 winner Lite Light), the great Glowing Tribute (dam of Sea Hero, Hero's Honor and Wild Applause among others).

Chris Seale liked the way his horse developed over the winter, and went to Timonium with confidence.

"He did things so easy, everything I put to him he handled well," he said. "Those kind are fun, you can put more to them and go a little faster. He just ate it up and was looking for more. It actually makes it a little tougher. These eighth-of-a-mile trials you do at the sale, I really would have loved to work him a half and take a little steam out of him. He was wanting more."

The team at the one-horse Bird In Hand Stables consignment—Chris and Margo Seale and their son Cash—sold a Maryland-bred Gormley colt for $450,000.

He also thrived on the attention from would-be buyers while walking outside the barn.

"He got lots of attention, he loved it, he's a ham," said Margo. "He actually didn't want to go back in the stall. We had to start bribing him to go back in the stall after showings."

Purchased by Mayberry Farm via agent David Ingordo, the colt was headed to California trainer John Shirreffs but will always have fans in the Seales. The operation includes 8-year-old Cash, who kept an eye on the tack room and provided inspiration all week.

"He's a big part of the operation," said Chris. "He's in the barn 24-7, eight days a week. There's a lot of Sundays he doesn't get to go to the park like a lot of the other kids, but he loves the horses and is into it."

Regional sires were in the mix both days at the sale. Five horses from the first crop of Divining Rod sold, led by a Maryland-bred colt out of the Valid Expectations mare Thievery for $135,000. Randy Morse signed the ticket for Donna Clark. The Divining Rods averaged $56,800. A Maryland-bred Friesan Fire colt went to LBD Stable and West Point Thoroughbreds for $130,000. Consigned by Grassroots Training and Sales, the colt sold for $38,000 at Timonium last year. Four horses by Golden Lad sold, topped by an $87,000 filly consigned by Best A Luck Farm and bought by Frank Alosa. Chuck Zacney went to $70,000 for a Golden Lad colt.

A colt from the first crop of Holy Boss brought $100,000 on a bid by Kelly Breen for Down Neck Stable. The Maryland-bred is a half-brother to stakes horses Faze the Nation and Maxine's Tap Room. The sale's leading buyer by purchases (with 23), Joe Besecker bid $60,000 to get a Maryland-bred Holy Boss filly out of 12-time winner and winner-producer Motherload Hipster. Todd Beattie consigned her for breeder Dr. Ronald Parker. Maryland-breds from the first crop of Editorial reached $47,000 (colt) and $20,000 (filly). Solo 2-year-olds by Barbados and Kobe's Back went for $50,000 and $35,000, respectively while an Uncle Lino filly brought $97,000. Three colts by Peace and Justice changed hands, each for $30,000 or more, while two Mosler fillies went for $30,000 and $25,000. Agent Gary Contessa spent $40,000 to land a filly by Uptowncharlybrown. Three horses by Weigelia sold for a combined $45,000.

Strength in Numbers

Timonium's 2-year-old sale attracts big-name buyers from all across the country, proven by the names at the top of the board in West Point Thoroughbreds, West Bloodstock, Spendthrift Farm, Lael Stable, Alex and Jo Ann Lieblong, Klaravich Stable, Solis/Litt, Rockingham Ranch, St. Elias Stables and so on.

But there's more to the sale and its success.

"It's a different set of buyers," Woods said of Timonium. "The top end is the same, and it's a bit later in the year and probably your last chance to buy a nice

TWO-YEAR BID DISTRIBUTION FIGURES

		2021		2020	
	bid	no. sold	total amount	no. sold	total amount
≥	$100,000	108	$24,452,000	70	$15,290,000
≥	75,000	30	2,483,000	31	2,630,000
≥	50,000	41	2,441,000	30	1,674,000
≥	25,000	83	2,939,500	76	2,619,500
≥	10,000	78	1,251,500	80	1,253,000
≥	5,000	16	121,000	15	102,000
others		1	4,000	1	4,000

PINHOOKERS' SCORECARD

Horses who sold for $200,000 or more, and exceeded their previous auction selling price by at least $100,000 or 100 percent:

$490,000 b.c. Practical Joke—April Snow, by Candy Ride (Arg). kee sept 20 $85,000

$460,000 dk.b./br.c. Munnings—Tweet, by Medaglia d'Oro. kee sept 20 $55,000

$425,000 ch.c. Gormley—Mott N Hester, by Super Saver. kee sept 20 $140,000

$400,000 b.f. Union Rags—Afleet Lass, by Northern Afleet. kee sept 20 $20,000

$400,000 b.f. Uncle Mo—Corby, by Quality Road. ftk sept 20 $150,000

$400,000 dk.b./br.c. Classic Empire—Hit the Limit, by Uncle Mo. ftk sept 20 $160,000

$380,000 ch.c. Munnings—Market Lover, by Latent Heat. ftk sept 20 $120,000

$375,000 ch.c. American Freedom—C R Vexora, by Graeme Hall. ftk sept 20 $40,000

$375,000 b.f. Empire Maker—Pontiana, by Deputy Minister. ftk oct 20 $125,000

$375,000 b.f. Quality Road—Moonlight Sky, by Sky Mesa. ftk oct 20 $230,000

$360,000 b.f. Palace—Honky Tonk Angel, by Bluegrass Cat. ftk feb 20 $8,000

$350,000 b.c. Maclean's Music—Coco Belle, by Storm Boot. kee nov 19 $12,000

$350,000 gr./ro.f. Medaglia d'Oro—Mo Chuisle, by Free House. ftk sept 20 $235,000

$325,000 dk.b./br.c. Midnight Storm—Dixie Dawn, by Dixie Union. ftk sept 20 $75,000

$325,000 b.c. Liam's Map—Spangled Banner, by Tiz Wonderful. kee nov 19 $145,000

$310,000 ch.c. Nyquist—In It for the Gold, by Speightstown. kee sept 20 $60,000

$290,000 ch.c. Brody's Cause—Candy d'Oro, by Johannesburg. ftk oct 20 $6,000

$280,000 b.f. Upstart—Pret, by More Than Ready. kee sept 20 $42,000

$280,000 ch.f. Nyquist—Jooma, by Empire Maker. obs oct 20 $87,000

$270,000 b.c. Practical Joke—Abundanceofcaution, by Kitten's Joy. kee sept 20 $150,000

$250,000 b.c. Empire Maker—Lady Pewitt, by Orientate. ftk oct 20 $40,000

$240,000 dk.b./br.c. Street Sense—To the Brim, by Ascot Knight. ftk oct 20 $20,000

$230,000 ch.f. Street Boss—Made to Love Her, by Stevie Wonderboy. kee nov 19 $30,000

$225,000 b.c. Gun Runner—Secret Jewel, by Bernardini. ftk oct 20 $45,000

$225,000 ch.c. Keen Ice—Sheisinittowinit, by Student Council. ftk oct 20 $57,000

$225,000 dk.b./br.c. American Freedom—Deputy Saint, by Saint Liam. kee sept 20 $85,000

$220,000 gr./ro.f. Liam's Map—Cave Creeker, by Langfuhr. obs jan 20 $49,000

$220,000 gr./ro.f. Frosted—Baffling, by Graydar. kee sept 20 $75,000

$210,000 dk.b./br.f. Empire Maker—Inspeight of Us, by Speightstown. kee nov 19 $75,000

$200,000 dk.b./br.f. Twirling Candy—Fly Me to Dubai, by Into Mischief. kee sept 20 $40,000

$200,000 gr./ro.c. Bernardini—Snowdust, by The Factor. kee sept 20 $50,000

$200,000 dk.b./br.c. More Than Ready—Separate Forest, by Forestry. ftk oct 20 $75,000

$200,000 b.f. War Front—Claire de Lune (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). kee sept 20 $85,000

$200,000 ch.c. American Freedom—Vesper Cat, by Mountain Cat. kee sept 20 $100,000

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horse if there's one here, but the depth of horses here is something and the buyers come to look for them. There are a lot of people who come to this sale, and they'll never come to another sale. They're all here and they're trying."

The buyers' list included trainers Amira Chichakly, Bruce Brown, Bruce Levine, Mark Hennig, Donnie Von Hemel, George Weaver, Chuck Lawrence, Joe Sharp, John Servis, Kelly Rubley, Rudy Rodriguez, Tom Morley and plenty of others simply looking for future racehorses to add to stables in the region and beyond.

"You see more trainers here than at any other 2-year-old sale," said consignor Ciaran Dunne, whose Wavertree Stables sold 11 horses for $2.185 million. "It's just easy for them. It's an easy drive from New York, we're in the middle of all these racetracks and the timing is right. It's always easier when the trainers are here because they're buying and agents can ask them about horses before they bid on them."

As always, timing plays a role too as the Timonium sale date (be it the traditional May slot or last year's late June) gives young horses more time to mature. They're closer to being racehorses than they are in February or March.

"The consignors just like this sale because of the extra time it gives a lot of horses," said Bennett. "A lot of these horses were May babies and they don't like to push them early because if they ding them early then they don't have anything, so they just go ahead and when they buy horses they target this sale."

That wasn't necessarily always the case–as Timonium used to be something of an afterthought–and Bennett remembers a consignor made a statement by hanging a "No Retreads" sign on the barn many years ago. Other than prices and a continued selectivity, the sale doesn't have much room for growth–hemmed in by Timonium's stabling capacity and the timing of other sales.

"Six-hundred is really what we can stable here, but we're seeing a lot of new consignors so it's nice," said Bennett, who had a waiting list of entries. "People see other people be successful and maybe they're like, 'I wasn't sure about that sale earlier but now I see the results and perhaps it's something we need to put on our calendar.' We've seen a lot of that and I think we'll continue to see more."

NOTES: Nobody bought more horses than powerhouse regional owner Joe Besecker, who added 23 horses to his far-reaching stable. A $425,000 Gormley colt topped the list, which included six horses bred in the region . . . De Meric Sales topped the consignors by gross at $2,854,000 (18 sold), led by the Tapit filly at $625,000 and an Uncle Mo filly purchased by Jonathan Thomas for George Strawbridge at $400,000 . . . Pennsylvania-breds averaged $77,375, while Maryland-breds were nearly the same at $76,321, with both states putting eight horses into the six-figure category.

STAKES WINNERS

Complete statistics on 2021 Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners available at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigrees, race records, produce records of dam, and more.

COGLIANESE PHOTO

Pennsylvania-bred/sired Beren won two Belmont stakes in May, the second the Paradise Creek in the slop.

New Jersey-bred

PRINCESS GEORGIA, b.m., 2015, El Padrino—Vodka High, by Mount McKinley. Bred by Reeve Schley III; owned by C J Racing; trained by Calixto Juarez. $75,000 **Spruce Fir H**, 6 fur., registered NJ-bred F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, May 31.

Pennsylvania-bred

BEREN, b.c., 2018, Weigelia—Silmaril, by Diamond. Bred & owned by Susan C. Quick & Christopher J. Feifarek; trained by Robert E. Reid Jr. $100,000 **Gold Fever S**, 6 fur., 3YO, Belmont, May 9; $100,000 **Paradise Creek S**, 7 fur. (off turf), 3YO, Belmont, May 30.

CARAVEL, gr./ro.f., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. Bred, owned & trained by Elizabeth M. Merryman. $100,000 **The Very One S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, May 14; 3rd **License Fee S**.

CHUB WAGON, b.f., 2017, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart. Bred by Joe-Dan Farm & George Chestnut; owned by Daniel J. Lopez & George Chestnut; trained by Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 **Unique Bella S**, 7 fur., registered PA-bred F&M, 3&up, Parx, April 27; $100,000 **Skipat S**, 6 fur., F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, May 15.

RAVENS DELIGHT, b.g., 2015, Great Notion—Darn That Raven, by Dance With Ravens. Bred by Elizabeth R. Houghton; owned by Joseph E. Besecker; trained by Demelza McMahon. $100,000 **With Anticipation S**, 1 1/16 mi. (off turf), registered PA-breds, 3&up, Penn National, May 28.

TROLLEY RIDE, gr./ro.m., 2015, Flashy Bull—Proudly Irish, by Jump Start. Bred by Sandra Kim Eshleman; owned by James H. Eshleman; trained by T. Bernard Houghton. $100,000 **Lyphard S**, 1 1/16 mi. (off turf), registered PA-bred F&M, 3&up, Penn National, May 28.

West Virginia-bred

HYPOTHESIS, b.g., 2017, Algorithms—Ideal Thoughts, by Not For Love. Bred by Francis W. Daniel III; owned by Jill Daniel; trained by Crystal G. Pickett. $75,000 **It's Only Money S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited WV-breds, 3&up, Charles Town, June 5.

OUR DIAMOND GIRL, dk.b./br.f., 2017, Windsor Castle—Go For Diamonds (Mex), by Victorioso. Bred by Tim Grams & Judy Grams (W.Va.); owned by Grams Racing Stable; trained by Timothy C. Grams. $75,000 **Fancy Buckles S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited WV-bred F&M, 3&up, Charles Town, May 29.

May stakes results for Monmouth

5/28 Jersey Derby ($100K). 1 mi. Off turf. 3YO.

Winner: **IT'S A GAMBLE** (b.c., English Channel—Yes It's Pink, by Yes It's True). B-Ron Lombardi (N.Y.). O-Mr. Amore Stable. T-Kelly J. Breen. J-Jose Baez. Time: 1:40.70. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Indian Lake**. 3rd: **Spectatorless**.

5/29 Mr. Prospector ($100K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **WIND OF CHANGE (BRZ)** (b.h., 6, Forestry—Academia Real, by Banker's Gold). B-Haras Sao Jose da Serra (Brazil). O-Daniel Alonso. T-Saffie A. Joseph Jr. J-J.C. Diaz Jr. Time: 1:09.60. Margin: 6¼. 2nd: **Golden Brown**. 3rd: **Always Sunshine**.

5/30 Politely ($75K). 5 F. Off turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **MISS AURAMET** (ch.m., 5, Uncaptured—Hello Rosie, by Yes It's True). B-Marion G. Montanari (Fla.). O-David Melin, Leon Ellman and Laurie Plesa. T-Kathleen O'Connell. J-Dylan Davis. Time: :57.60. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Bronx Beauty**. 3rd: **No Mercy Percy**.

5/31 Spruce Fir ($75K). 6 F. Reg. NJ-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **PRINCESS GEORGIA** (b.m., 6, El Padrino—Vodka High, by Mount McKinley). B-Reeve Schley III (N.J.). O-C J Racing. T-Calixto Juarez. J-Carlos J. Hernandez. Time: 1:11.93. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Diamond Play**. 3rd: **Groovy Surprise**.

Late May stakes results for Charles Town

5/29 Fancy Buckles ($75K). 4½ F. Reg. WV-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **OUR DIAMOND GIRL** (dk.b./br.f., 4, Windsor Castle—Go For Diamonds-Mex, by Victorioso). B-Tim Grams and Judy Grams (W.Va.). O-Grams Racing Stable. T-Timothy C. Grams. J-Fredy Peltroche. Time: :52.97. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **College Kid**. 3rd: **Good Karma**.

Dance leaves behind long reach, legacy

By Joe Clancy

Of all the things the Covid-19 pandemic took from racing, one proved to be especially bitter this spring. Steve Dance, Fasig-Tipton Company auctioneer, bid-spotter, historian and ambassador, did not get to experience one more Saratoga.

Dance, 78, died of a heart attack May 25 at his home in Jarrettsville, Md. He'd wrapped up the company's sale of 2-year-olds at Timonium a week earlier and was at home with his wife Nancy. And he was probably thinking about Saratoga, where Fasig-Tipton will celebrate its 100th auction in Thoroughbred racing's signature town Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The milestone was supposed to come in 2020, but Covid canceled the sale as Fasig-Tipton consolidated its select yearling auctions in Kentucky. The sale reaches three digits this summer, and Dance would have loved it.

"Of all the people that are associated with Fasig-Tipton, the one that the 100th anniversary would have meant the most to was Steve," said Boyd Browning Jr., president and CEO of the company. "He was part historian. Literally after the Timonium sale, which was Monday and Tuesday, on Thursday he called me with some ideas about the 100th anniversary. He had some memorabilia he wanted to display and share. He was thinking about it. It does sting that he didn't get to experience it."

It's not the only sting. Dance died five days after that conversation with Browning and leaves behind a legion of friends and family—at Fasig-Tipton, in racing, all over Maryland, among various motorcycle-riding pals and through his Steve Dance Auctions business.

"I never heard anything bad about him in my life," said Maryland Racing Commission steward Ross Pearce, a longtime friend. As chairman of the My Lady's Manor Races, Pearce (and Turney McKnight before him) stationed Steve and Nancy at the horsemen's gate every year and simply checked that off the list of responsibilities.

"We could have never done without him at the Manor," said Pearce. "He took care of that gate, he knew everybody, knew who to let in and who not to let in. He turned away a lot of people too. He was so good doing that and it was important to us. You could just stop worrying about that part of the day."

TODD MARKS

Hiram Stephens "Steve" Dance was born in 1943 in Towson, Md., the son of Shearman Scott Dance Sr. (whose jobs included managing livestock farms and working with his sons at Dance Brothers Construction) and Helen Dance (a nurse). The Dance family goes back to the 1800s in Maryland when Joseph Dance (Steve's great-great grandfather) started a mill in Baltimore County on what is now Dance Mill Road just north of the Loch Raven Reservoir. Milton Dance Sr., Steve's grandfather, opened an auction company in 1912. Steve worked there for his uncle Milton "Laddie" Dance Jr., learned the business—which sold farms, houses, farm equipment, antiques, art, pretty much anything—and later took over the management. The Steve Dance Auctions letterhead also lists Milton J. Dance Co., Inc.

Also an executive and auctioneer at Fasig-Tipton, Laddie Dance introduced Steve to Thoroughbred sales and Steve found a niche. He started in the 1960s, became a regular auctioneer and bid-spotter in 1972 and didn't miss a Fasig-Tipton auction for the next 50 years (or maybe he missed one, when—as the story goes—nobody told him to come; he was admonished to show up unless told not to). He sold million-dollar yearlings, expensive broodmares, fast 2-year-olds and could recall where he was when various horses were bought and/or sold. "Sidney Watters. . ." Dance said one day at Saratoga two summers ago, then launched into nearly

every detail of the purchase of future champion Hoist the Flag by the Hall of Fame trainer in 1969.

"He was an ambassador–part auctioneer, part bid-spotter and part ambassador," Browning said. "He had a natural gift of relating to people and making them feel good. If you were engaged in conversation with Steve or doing business with Steve, it was enjoyable. You felt comfortable with him, you enjoyed going to dinner with him. He had the ability to relate to people from all walks of life, got along with them, that was evident watching him at work."

And it was work. Yes, his uncle was once a key executive and face of the company but, no, Dance's job was not handed to him. He worked behind the scenes for many years, was a bid-spotter rather than an auctioneer for many more, especially at Saratoga. At Timonium, he was as adept at organizing horses and riders at the mid-week breeze show as he was ringing up seven-figure bids from the rostrum on sales days. He got called up from the bid-spotter ranks to actually sell at Saratoga thanks to some shuffling among the auctioneering staff. Browning doesn't take the credit, but remembers helping make it happen.

"What are we going to do?" various staffers asked Browning.

"Hell, Steve is going to sell," replied Browning, with confidence.

"Steve worked his ass off at his craft and was a very, very, very good auctioneer and bid-spotter," said Browning. "People were very comfortable conducting and transacting business with Steve. They trusted him, with great confidence. Steve earned his stripes. He earned the respect of people he did business with in the horse business and his own auctions."

With Fasig-Tipton, he worked Thoroughbred sales in Florida, Texas, California, New York, Maryland, Kentucky, New Jersey and wherever the company did business.

Dance graduated from the Reppert School of Auctioneering in Indiana in 1961 and was licensed in multiple states and the United States and Canada. Beyond horses and his business, he was a motorcycle enthusiast and expert on the history and value of BMW motorcycles. He owned up to 20 at a time and rode them all over North America.

In addition to his wife Nancy, survivors include daughter Whitney Blake Dudley and her husband Brad; daughter Erica Stephens Dance; son Lee Hopkins Dance; stepdaughter Layne Hockaday and her husband Evrard Neil; brothers Shearman Scott Dance Jr. and his wife Lee; Thomas Milton Dance and his wife Karola; and Anderson Weller Dance and his wife Sandy; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made in Dance's memory to the Baltimore County 4-H Fair c/o Janice Coroneos, 1801 Ridgeway Ave., Lutherville, MD 21093; or the Harford County 4-H Program, 3525 Conowingo Rd., Suite 600, Street, MD 21154. ✹

Brother Act

Gershwin follows Mystic Guide to graded success in off-the-turf Mile

BY CINDY DEUBLER

Trainer Mike Stidham has the world's top-ranked horse, 2021 Dubai World Cup-G1 winner Mystic Guide, in his barn at Fair Hill. Standing in the stall next to the 4-year-old $7.5 million earner is year-younger half-brother Gershwin.

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Half-brothers Mystic Guide, left, and Gershwin reside side by side at Mike Stidman's Fair Hill barn.

May stakes results for Penn National

5/28 **Penn Mile-G3** ($300K). 1 mi. Off turf. 3YO.

Winner: **GERSHWIN** (ch.c., Distorted Humor—Music Note, by A.P. Indy). B/O-Godolphin (Ky.).
T-Michael Stidham. J-Joe Bravo. Time: 1:39.24. Margin: 2. 2nd: **The King Cheek**. 3rd: **Chess's Dream**.

5/28 **Penn Oaks** ($100K). 1 mi. Off turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **ORBS BABY GIRL** (b.f., Orb—This Is War, by War Front). B-Castleton Lyons and KÕboy Estate (Ky.).
O-A R M Racing. T-Anthony R. Margotta Jr. J-JunŠr Alvarado. Time: 1:39.53. Margin: 5¼.
2nd: **Amalfi Princess**. 3rd: **Tic Tic Tic Boom**.

5/28 **Lyphard** ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. Off turf. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **TROLLEY RIDE** (gr./ro.m., 6, Flashy Bull—Proudly Irish, by Jump Start). B-Sandra Kim Eshleman (Pa.).
O-James H. Eshleman. T-T. Bernard Houghton. J-Inoel Beato. Time: 1:46.65. Margin: ½.
2nd: **Midnight Obsession**. 3rd: **Discreetly Tough**.

5/28 **With Anticipation** ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. Off turf. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **RAVENS DELIGHT** (b.g., 6, Great NotŠn—Darn That Raven, by Dance With Ravens).
B-Elizabeth R. Houghton (Pa.). O-Joseph E. Besecker. T-Demelza McMahon. J-JulŠ A. Hernandez.
Time: 1:46.03. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Chilly in Charge**. 3rd: **Saratoga Jack**.

Makes you wonder what conversations go on between the Godolphin homebreds through their stall window, but whatever big brother said, it worked. In his stakes debut, Gershwin soared to an easy victory in the Penn Mile-G3 over a sloppy Penn National track Memorial Day weekend.

Stidham laughed when he considered what the two colts might discuss. "Older brother said, 'Pick your game up' and he did."

Rain didn't let up for Penn National's biggest night of the year, and all four stakes scheduled for the turf May 28 were transferred to the main track. The Penn Mile-G2 was downgraded due to the change, but there was no denying a budding star with enormous credentials.

Sent off as the slight second choice in a field of five after two scratches, Gershwin rated kindly for Joe Bravo. When asked to run heading into the far turn, the chestnut responded, drifting out slightly as he accelerated. Straightening for home he was in command as Bravo hand rode him to the wire. The favorite, New York shipper Annex, was a well-beaten fourth.

Gershwin has won or placed in all of his starts, leading off with a third at Fair Grounds Jan. 2. The son of Distorted Humor broke his maiden second time out, also in New Orleans, before traveling to Oaklawn and Churchill Downs, in the latter missing his second win by a neck. Three times in his five starts he was entered on the turf, and all three were run on wet main tracks.

"To this day we really don't know if Gershwin is going to be better on the grass. It's just something that we had always thought about trying with him," said Stidham. "His dirt races have obviously not been bad, but we were just looking for something that might take him a notch forward. So when we entered in the Penn Mile we were just saying 'Let's try the grass, let's see what it does for him.' And when it came off it was an obvious move to stay in on the sloppy track."

Gershwin's family has shown an affinity for off tracks. In the race before his Dubai trip, Mystic Guide romped by 6 lengths over a sealed sloppy track in Oaklawn's Razorback Handicap-G3. Their dam, five-time Grade 1-winning A.P. Indy mare Music Note, also relished the slop, among her victories was Saratoga's Ballerina Stakes-G1 by daylight over sprint champions Indian Blessing and Informed Decision.

Physically the two chestnuts are similar, noted Stidham.

"Mystic Guide [by Ghostzapper] is a little bigger and stronger, but Gershwin is just a 3-year-old so he is still developing. He's a very handsome colt," the trainer said. "Personality-wise Mystic Guide is a little bit tougher and can be a little more difficult to handle. Whereas Gershwin is pretty easy, with a laid-back attitude."

Stidham has a full barn of 40 horses at Fair Hill, a full barn at Delaware and about 20 horses at Arlington Park. He trains for multiple owners, but his biggest client is Godolphin, with close to 30. Mystic Guide and Gershwin are the first siblings in Stidham's barn to win graded stakes the same year; but there could be more as Micheline and her half-brother Proxy, Godolphin homebreds out of Panty Raid, are close.

Micheline won the Hillsborough Stakes-G2 at Tampa Bay Downs in March and placed in a Grade 1 last year. Proxy was on the Triple Crown trail this year with seconds in the Grade 2 Risen Star (to Mandaloun) and Grade 3 Lecomte (to Midnight Bourbon) at Fair Grounds.

Stidham has trained for Godolphin for about five years. "We have brothers and sisters and horses related in the barn who are all really high-profile horses," he said. "It's a good feeling to have these kind of horses in the barn, especially half-brothers that are both graded stakes winners."

Growing Up Sylmar

Two $100,000 Pennsylvania-bred stakes kicked off the Penn Mile card. That the 1 1/16-mile races came off the turf was just fine for Trolley Ride, winner of the Lyphard for fillies and mares, and Ravens Delight, who captured the With Anticipation for older horses and has yet to run on the turf. Both are now first-time stakes winners at the age of 6, and grew up together at Sylmar Farm in Christiana.

"We were really happy for Trolley Ride," said Betsy Houghton, who with her late husband Ronnie sent out multitudes of winners for decades. Sylmar is a family operation in more ways than one. Son Bernie Houghton trains the horses and longtime Sylmar employee Kim Eshleman bred and owns Trolley Ride, who runs in the name of her husband Jim Eshleman.

Trolley Ride, foaled at the Eshlemans' small farm and raised at Sylmar, is the first stakes winner for the couple.

"Kim has worked for us for 45 years and she's still here," said Betsy Houghton. "They have a little farm about five miles down the road and she'll breed a mare and foal at her place and then they come here and we break them and run them."

Eshleman joined the Sylmar Farm crew just out of school, said Houghton. "She's like family. Everybody knows her. We have six barns on the farm and she's run two of them all these years. She breaks all the yearlings."

Trolley Ride had run on grass once in her 25 prior starts, last September at Parx Racing, and didn't run well, but her connections wanted to try it again in the Lyphard.

"If it stayed on the grass we'd give her another chance, but we were just as happy it came off," said Houghton. The gray daughter of former Pennsylvania stallion Flashy Bull had won twice before on an off track in four starts. Rated just off the pace in a tightly bunched six-horse Lyphard, she rallied wide around the far turn, worked to the front with a furlong to go and held off Midnight Obsession to win by a half-length.

"Trolley Ride is a really nice filly," said Houghton. "She'd been in the money in a couple of stakes before. We've had a hard time getting races for her because she's run out of all her conditions, so she really has to go into a stakes. This one was just perfect."

The win was the ninth of her career and pushed her earnings to $323,654.

One race later, Houghton-bred Ravens Delight splashed home by a length for Joe Besecker and trainer Demelza McMahon. The son of Great Notion had been claimed from his breeder for $25,000 in January.

The Houghtons have always been philosophical about the claiming game.

"We won a couple of races with him and we felt like that's where he belonged," said Betsy Houghton of the bay gelding's January start, the 22nd in the Sylmar colors. "It doesn't bother us at all to lose a horse. As long as they stay in Pennsylvania."

In four starts since the claim, all at Penn National, Ravens Delight has two wins and two seconds. And Houghton keeps collecting the breeder bonuses – for a gelding out of a mare given to them.

"We trained for [breeder/owner] Kay Holman and when she was done running her, she gave her to us," said Houghton of stakes winner Darn That Raven (by Dance With Ravens). Ravens Delight is the mare's only surviving foal.

Most years there are about 30 foals born at Sylmar, and the crew foaled 27 this year.

"It's great breeder money," said Houghton. "We're usually in the top three or four [on the year-end leading Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association awards lists] but now it's a little hard because they combine with those who have stallions. We don't have any stallions. We do it strictly with our broodmares." ✹

Hitting a Perfect Note

Pennsylvania's perennial leading breeder Blackstone Farm, operated by Christian Black, Mark Weissman and Douglas Black, has an impressive broodmare band they continue to build upon each year. In September 2017 they purchased a filly at Keeneland for $17,000. Their intent wasn't to race the daughter of Elusive Quality they named Perfect Note. Based on her pedigree she was purchased as a broodmare prospect.

The half-sister to Mystic Guide and Gershwin is the only foal Godolphin has sold to date out of Music Note.

Blackstone and partner Dr. William Hess have bred three foals out of Perfect Note, all born at the Pine Grove farm. Her first, a Nyquist colt, brought $510,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale on a bid by Mike Ryan.

"He was a very special yearling," said Christian Black, who has been receiving good reports on the 2-year-old's training progress. Blackstone and Hess entered foal-sharing arrangements with Godolphin for Perfect Note's next foals – a Hard Spun yearling colt headed to Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select sale with agent South Point Sales (which sold the Nyquist colt). This year the mare delivered a Medaglia d'Oro colt in March; she is in foal to Ghostzapper, sire of Mystic Guide.

"We'll go in and buy some yearling fillies that for some reason don't fit the racing environment," said Black. "If some of them fall through the cracks, we are willing to take them and give them time. [Perfect Note] was a bit of an immature filly and had a some surgeries [before the sale] – she just needed time to grow into herself. We bought her because of her family.

"Her flaws weren't bad, but they turned too many people off."

– Cindy Deubler

Shining Light

Our Diamond Girl becomes stakes winner in Fancy Buckles

BY MELISSA BAUER-HERZOG. PHOTOGRAPH BY COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Breeder/owner/trainer Tim Grams sends out Our Diamond Girl to win the Fancy Buckles Stakes, named for a Grams' stable star from two decades ago.

When Windsor Castle's daughter Our Diamond Girl crossed the line first in the Fancy Buckles Stakes at Charles Town May 29, it was the coming together of two storylines in the career of Tim Grams.

He owned and trained Fancy Buckles in the early 2000s, winning nine of 17 starts (including four stakes victories), and has Our Diamond Girl on a similar path as the 4-year-old filly became a stakes winner while collecting her sixth win in 10 starts for the owner/trainer/breeder with his wife Judy. Fittingly, Grams thinks his current charge reminds him of the race's namesake even if the comparison isn't fair.

"She's not quite the filly the race was named after but she's sure been a nice, useful filly for us and it was nice to win that race," Grams said. "They were both really quick out of the gate and both have a lot of try. This filly may not quite have the talent as Fancy Buckles had, but she has just as much heart as she did. They were both really similar to train, really."

Homebred Our Diamond Girl is the final foal out of Grams' mare Go For Diamonds (Mex). She won 10 races in Mexico and was in Kentucky as a broodmare with Doug Arnold when he called Grams about her in 2011. Grams told Arnold to put the then 14-year-old mare on a van to West Virginia and if he liked her, he'd keep her. From nearly the moment she arrived at the farm, Grams knew she wouldn't be returning to Kentucky.

"She was just an absolute great mare in a whole lot of different ways, really," said Grams. "A couple of different times Judy and I had mares that things didn't go right at foaling and we ended up with an orphan baby. I had a day and a half before we could get a nurse mare to come and Go For Diamonds was the kind of mare that I could lead her out of her stall right to the baby and she let everybody nurse. You didn't have to watch her, it was unbelievable watching how she took to the babies because she knew she was helping. She would always help us until we got the nurse mare out."

Go For Diamonds also had something most breeders pray their broodmares pass down to foals – speed.

Grams never overthought who to send Go For Diamonds to, breeding her to farm stallion Copelan Too and West Virginia stallions Fiber Sonde and Windsor Castle. In all, the mare had four foals whose matings were planned by Grams in addition to the Five Star Day foal she was carrying when he bought her. Three of the five won races – three-time winner Five Star Buckle, five-time winner Right On the Money and the now stakes-winning Our Diamond Girl. Of the other two foals, one died as a yearling and the other didn't race.

"She had a lot of speed and we wanted to keep breeding her to stallions who had some speed also," he said. "She had a Fiber Sonde filly that could really run but I had trouble keeping her sound so I ended up giving her to a friend of ours for a broodmare. She had the Five Star Day colt who was a decent horse, not a hell raiser but he was decent. She was just one of those kind of mares. I thought she worked well with Mr. Prospector and everything we bred to her, she put some run in all of them."

The mare visited Windsor Castle in 2016 with Grams hoping that the breeding might infuse some soundness with the speed Go For Diamonds' foals were inheriting.

"Windsor Castle was a nice horse in West Virginia," said Grams of the Taylor Mountain Farm stallion who died in 2020. "Between him and Fiber Sonde, I think

they're the two nicest horses who have been around here in a long time. He was a real useful horse and a real sound horse. Windsor Castle's babies always showed a lot of soundness so that was one reason I wanted to breed her to something that was pretty sound."

While there were some bumps early, Our Diamond Girl followed the plan. This year, the filly has reeled off four wins from five starts and finished fourth when stretching out to 6½ furlongs in her only other start. Grams credits his veterinarian Dr. Dan Mahar for what she has become after suggesting time off last year. She won her debut in May, finished third in an allowance in June, then didn't run again until late October and the layoff proved to be exactly what she needed.

"The filly showed some usefulness early on, but then we had some trouble with her knees, they were fighting her a little bit so our veterinarian told us to give her some time off," he said. "We gave her three or four months off, and she's just been a totally different horse."

Go For Diamonds died in 2018 after contracting an infection. Our Diamond Girl is the only daughter Grams owns but his focus concerns solely her racing career, for now. He isn't sure where Our Diamond Girl will go next, but he isn't against stretching her out again if the opportunity arises.

"We stretched her out and I think the filly will go 6½ furlongs, really," he said. "She led the whole way and got beat by some pretty nice fillies. It would be nice if she would stretch out but it's uncertain if she will effectively or not."

The filly returned to her preferred 4½ furlongs in the Fancy Buckles Stakes and showed her speed when breaking out of the gate as one of the leaders. Our Diamond Girl was always among the top three, and spent the first half of the race within a length of the lead. She entered a duel around the turn and secured command in the stretch to win by 1½ lengths over College Kid.

The victory backed up Grams' opinion about Windsor Castle as the first three finishers were daughters of the stallion.

Proof Positive

A two-time stakes winner at Charles Town in 2019, Hypothesis took on stakes company multiple times in 2020 but settled for two seconds and a third (to go with three allowance wins). One of those placings was the It's Only Money Stakes, a defeat he avenged June 5.

Running much like Our Diamond Girl the weekend before, Hypothesis stayed close to the pace, reeled in leader Unrideabull in the stretch and then had to hold off the Grams-trained Sagebrush by a nose in the 4½-furlong stakes. One of the great names in the region, Hypothesis is by Algorithms and out of Ideal Thoughts. The 4-year-old gelding, bred by Francis Daniel III, owned by Jill Daniel and trained by Crystal Pickett, won for the seventh time in 17 starts while pushing his earnings to $231,374.

NOTES: Through June 10, five horses led the Charles Town leaderboard with five wins each at the track–Azzurra, Be Be Bop, Primal Destiny, Super Garner and Take Me Home. In what might be an even more difficult achievement, Crazy Idea, Binn Goode and Molly Bolts had finished second five times at Charles Town this year. Four-time winner Golden Key led the earnings race at $104,830 . . . Jeff Runco (53 wins), Ronney Brown (44) and Anthony Farrior (42) sat atop the trainers' list . . . Robert Cole (20) led Grams Racing Stable and Taylor Mountain Farm (15 each) among the owners . . . The jockeys' race was turning into a laugher as Arnaldo Bocachica's 110 wins towered over the 49 put up by Fredy Peltroche and Denis Araujo. ✹

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Smarty Jones

STUART HAMAN

You can talk about Forego and Kelso but, to my mind, Smarty Jones is the greatest weight carrier in the history of Thoroughbred racing.

In 1996, when I was nominated for a seat on the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission, racing in Pennsylvania was struggling. A maiden race at Parx, then called Philadelphia Park, carried a purse of $14,000 and would have been much less without the full card simulcasting that had been introduced in the early 1980s. Attendance was a few hundred a day and the backside was a disgrace. If possible, the conditions at Penn National were worse.

The horsemen and the track operators had been in Harrisburg trying, with much frustration, to convince Gov. Tom Ridge to support the introduction of slot machines at the state's four racetracks – The Meadows and Pocono Downs harness tracks and the aforementioned Thoroughbred tracks.

Ridge was playing it coy with the industry. He would say that he was not opposed to the idea of slots at the racetracks and asked the industry to bring him a proposal he could endorse. However, he would never state what he wanted to see in such a proposal and would reject every idea brought to him.

After the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Governor Ridge was appointed the head of the Department of Homeland Security. He was succeeded by his Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker. Two weeks into his term, the new governor dashed everyone's hopes by announcing that he would continue Ridge's policy of "no expansion of gambling in Pennsylvania."

This was bad enough for racing but it got even worse when, two weeks later, the governor announced how pleased he was to welcome the Power Ball lottery to the Commonwealth.

The members of the commission, myself, Cuyler Walker and Paul Mills, were directed by the governor's office to avoid any public comments with regard to slots at the racetracks and the issue appeared dead. And then came Ed Rendell. The Democrat had been the district attorney and then mayor of Philadelphia from 1992-2000 and decided to run for governor in 2002. In the campaign he and his opponent, Mike Fisher, promised to support legislation to permit slot machines at the racetracks.

When Rendell was elected the commission received a flurry of applications for the state's two unused racing licenses. The governor asked the commission not to grant any new licenses while the slots legislation was pending. Walker's law firm represented one applicant and everyone agreed that he was in a conflict-of-interest situation and he resigned in 2003. Rendell asked Fitz Dixon, who had retired after many years as chairman in 1998, to return to the commission to help shepherd the process that would evolve if the slots legislation were to be approved.

This is where Smarty Jones entered the picture. Smarty Jones broke his maiden and won the Pennsylvania Nursery (by 15 lengths) at Philadelphia Park in his only two starts as a 2-year-old in 2003. He looked like a nice Pennsylvania-bred for his owners and breeders, Roy and Pat Chapman. At 3 he won the Count Fleet at Aqueduct, causing trainer John Servis to ship him to Oaklawn Park for its series of Kentucky Derby preps.

Meanwhile, back in Harrisburg, a bill had been introduced to permit the installation of slot machines at Pennsylvania racetracks. There was support from the governor's office, but also significant opposition from Atlantic City casinos, the Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association and the traditional anti-gambling crowd. The bill, called the Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, was being positioned as a savior for the racing and breeding industry as well as all of the ancillary businesses and jobs which depended on the tracks and farms. In an age where the closest most people get to a horse is when they see a mounted-patrol officer on the street, the idea that horses equaled jobs and economic activity was pretty abstract. Rendell needed something that would connect voters and legislators to the horse industry in Pennsylvania.

When Smarty Jones swept Oaklawn's Derby preps Rendell had found his poster boy. A Thoroughbred born in Chester County, owned by Pennsylvanians, trained at Philadelphia Park in Bucks County by a regular guy who also happened to be a great interview, Smarty was just what Rendell needed to humanize the industry he was trying to save. When Smarty Jones, somewhat improbably, won the Kentucky Derby in May the governor decided to ride him all the way to the finish line.

Dixie and I were asked to be part of the governor's party when he announced that he would attend the Preakness. Let me say that, if you're going to attend the Preakness, going with the Governor of Pennsylvania is the best way to go. When we escorted Midge Rendell (the governor's wife and a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals) to the infield to watch the saddling, someone in the group wondered aloud how the Flyers were doing in their playoff game that afternoon. A large man with a shaved head spoke into his cuff and then reported that the Flyers were

winning 2-0 at the end of the second period. The governor, in the meantime, had been whisked off for a private meeting with Frank Stronach.

We all reassembled in the box area to watch the race. Dixie was seated next to the governor who was leaning forward resting his head on the railing. Dixie thought he was going to be sick and asked him if he was all right. He said, "You have no idea how much is riding on the outcome of this race." He was more nervous than Stewart Elliott who was sitting on Smarty's back at the time.

The rest, of course, is history. Smarty Jones won the Preakness but was defeated in the Belmont, with the governor, Judge Rendell, Dixie, and me in attendance. That spring Smarty Jones had been the toast of Philadelphia and the entire commonwealth. He, his owners and his trainer made the strongest argument possible for saving the racing and breeding industry in Pennsylvania. The bill to allow slot machines at racetracks passed both houses of the legislature and, on July 5, 2004, was signed by Rendell in a ceremony at Philadelphia Park.

Since that day purses have nearly tripled, every barn at both racetracks has been replaced, and Grade 1 races like the Pennsylvania Derby and the Cotillion Stakes have been run for $1 million purses. The number of quality stallions in the commonwealth has expanded and the foal crop has exploded.

I once told Servis that Smarty Jones didn't stand a chance in the Belmont. As he entered the stretch, he was carrying the weight of 5,000 slot machines on his broad shoulders as well as Ed Rendell whipping and driving for the finish. ✹

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Gold Rush

Timber pro Schoodic provides another Virginia Gold Cup triumph for Fishers

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEES

Forty years.

Dr. John Fisher sent for his son 16-year-old son Jack, at boarding school, to ride timber icon *Juggernaut II in the Virginia Gold Cup. It was part desperation, hopeful dad offering wayward son an incentive to stay in school.

It didn't work—Fisher was kicked out of boarding school two weeks later. But ultimately it did work as Fisher rode the rapids of adolescence and came out the other side. The other side for him wasn't higher education—as his parents hoped/expected—it was Thoroughbred racing. Fisher won that first Virginia Gold Cup, a 16-year-old kid on his dad's horse. Eight years later, he won his second, Call Louis, a Maryland-bred for his wife, Sheila. Three years later, another Maryland-bred Push and Pull added a third for Fisher's in-laws, Rufus and Sheila Williams. Then Ann and Henry Stern's Saluter cemented Fisher in Virginia Gold Cup lore, winning six in a row from 1994-99. Arcadia Stable's Bubble Economy tacked on two more in 2008 and 2010. That's nine as a jockey, 10 as a trainer. And on Saturday, May 29, Schoodic and Hadden Frost provided Fisher's 12th win in the 4-mile classic. Owned by his parents, John and Dolly, the 11-year-old son of Tiznow put the corn on the kettle with a take-charge move over the water jump the final time that propelled him to a 5¾-length score over a game Tomgarrow (Ire) and a gallant Flaming Sword (Ire). Schoodic finished 4 miles over the course listed as good in 8:31.40.

John Fisher walked out of the winner's circle and wondered back to that move 40 years ago.

"I was thinking he was going to be gone from boarding school, that he had to buckle down so he could come ride my horse in the Gold Cup and he wins it," Dr. Fisher said. "Two weeks later, he's gone. I asked him, 'What did you think?' He said, 'I couldn't believe you did that.' That was it. And here we are today, the whole game, father and son, Jack's success. I was thinking today, how appropriate it would be to win today, with the Hall of Fame, that's where he belongs."

Inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, Fisher put another line on his plaque

Schoodic (center) jumps into contention over the water jump at the Virginia Gold Cup.

with the indomitable Schoodic. Bred and owned by Edie Dixon, the white-faced gelding made his debut in a 7-furlong maiden for 2-year-olds at Saratoga in 2012. After five winless starts on the flat for Michael Matz and Dixon (plus her late husband Fitz), Schoodic won his debut over hurdles in the Gladstone at Far Hills in 2013. The Kentucky-bred won five more before switching owners and transferring to timber in 2019 where he's added six triumphs. The biggest in the Virginia Gold Cup. For all the reasons.

Perhaps father and son weren't on the same page back in 1981, but they certainly were 40 years later.

"It's the one to win," Jack Fisher said.

"It's the one to win," Dr. Fisher echoed.

Schoodic made sure of it with another polished round of running and jumping, overcoming a slip at the first to find a comfortable spot just off the pace set by two-time spring winner Renegade River. Main rival Mystic Strike slipped on an early turn and lost his jockey, making the job at hand a lot easier. Frost gunned Schoodic over the water jump and down the backside the final time, the hammer had fallen.

"That was textbook Jack Fisher playbook," Dr. Fisher said. "He sent him from there."

"I thought he moved too soon," Jack Fisher said.

"Hey, I won the race," Frost said.

The Virginia Gold Cup salvaged a spring season that was slipping away for Schoodic and Frost.

They slipped and fell while on their way to winning at My Lady's Manor and then arrived too late when second to Renegade River at Willowdale.

"I will say I was starting to lose faith in the rider but never the horse," Fisher said as he walked back to the barn after the Gold Cup. "He lost a shoe at the Manor, I don't know if that was before or during the fall, he lost a shoe at Willowdale. That didn't help."

Back at the barn, Schoodic (with four shoes) gradually caught his breath as Fisher's nephew, Fin, led the 12-time winner on a cool, overcast afternoon. Dolly inspected a stifle, checked for four shoes. Jack conferred with assistant Sandra Webb about an earlier runner. Dr. Fisher talked about Little Pal, a pony who helped root the roots of steeplechasing into his son. Three generations, one sport.

Team Schoodic – trainer Jack Fisher (left), jockey Hadden Frost and owners Dolly and John Fisher – accept the Virginia Gold Cup after the $50,000 timber stakes victory at Great Meadow May 29.

"I can't go in the stand, I run back and forth up there. In fact, I left my binoculars because I get too nervous, I put them down somewhere. I went down and said hello to Saluter before the race, just in case, whatever good luck I could get," Dr. Fisher said about visiting the bronze of the Gold Cup's ultimate hero. "I am very proud of Jack. We never lost contact when they go through all the bad things, part of growing up. The one thing we always had was communication, through the bad times, we got together and through the good times and here we are feeding on it. It's incredible."

Jack Fisher might not have realized the enormity of his father's gesture in 1981. But, in 2021, it's singed into his soul.

"Juggernaut was [timber] Horse of the Year before I got on him. How many people get that kind of opportunity?" Fisher said. "My dad rode him, my brother rode him, I rode him. It worked . . . in the long run . . . it took awhile . . . 40 years."

■ While the Fishers were reminiscing and remembering, Doug Fout was riding the same train, a win, a moment and a 41-year-old connection.

The Virginia-based trainer sent out **Yankee Doodle Boy** to win the maiden claiming hurdle at Virginia Gold Cup. Ridden by Barry Foley, the son of Declaration of War settled in the back before rolling to a 2-length score over Lap of the Gods and Forgiving. The 5-year-old carries the white and black spots (and red cap) of owner Melissa Cantacuzene. And that's the connection.

Fout guided Sailor's Clue in those silks to upset the 1980 Colonial Cup in a four-horse scrum. The Jones Precision light beam decided it, 4-year-old Sailor's Clue and his 22-year-old jockey by a nose over Irish raider Corrib Chieftain (Ir) and Tommy McGivern. Defending champion Martie's Anger and Al Quanbeck finished a half-length back in third with stablemate Leaping Frog and John Cushman closing for fourth.

Owned by Rodion Cantacuzene, Melissa's husband, and trained by Ridgely White, Sailor's Clue provided Fout with his biggest career win during a season where he finished second to four-time champion John Cushman (the jockeys tied with 15 jump wins, but Cushman picked up three flat wins to win it on points, 33-30).

"That's a long time ago. Automatically, when you see those silks, it comes up," Fout said. "The feeling never changes. You do something nice for a person who's been with you for a long time, you finally win a race, she's just as happy winning a maiden claimer as she was winning a stake with Sailor's Clue. They live for the game. They're here because they love the game and love the horses. That means the most. That is the definition of our sport."

Sailor's Clue winning a photo in the Colonial Cup is part of that definition. Rodion Cantacuzene, a Navy captain, died in 2016. Melissa called her old jockey last

Wearing the Cantacuzene family's distinctive silks, Yankee Doodle Boy strides away with a win, and a memory for winning trainer Doug Fout, at the Virginia Gold Cup.

year and wanted to tune up the band one more time.

"They've been in the game so long. She came to me and said she wanted to get back in the game," Fout said. "She's enjoyed it so much, she comes out every Wednesday to watch him school, she gets in the golf cart, brings all her dogs and has a great time. It's fun, I rode for them and won and get to train for her and win. Her son has come to the farm, her grandson has been out to the farm. Everybody is enjoying it, loving it. She's delighted, you can hear her in the background, screaming and hollering, dogs barking. That's what it's all about. That's the best part of life."

Just like Sailor's Clue 41 years ago. The Maryland-bred capped off a 4-for-5 spree that fall, winning at Rolling Rock, Virginia Fall, Far Hills and the season finale in the Colonial Cup—then the sport's signature race.

"It was my biggest stake," said Fout, who learned racing from his father Paul and paused between recollections all these years later. "My father . . . he was the first one . . . I miss him every day . . . he jumped out of the stands and gave me a hug before anybody got close to us. That meant more to me . . . than any race I ever won . . . except when Hirapour (Ire) won at Saratoga when Dad had just passed away. It's the only reason we keep going in this game . . . 1980 . . . and I'm still crying."

■ **Keri Brion** made up for a slow start with a double at Virginia Gold Cup. Jonathan Sheppard's longtime assistant sent out recent import The Mean Queen (Ire) to dominate the allowance hurdle for Buttonwood Farm and Tom Garner and came right back to win the Grade 3 David Semmes Memorial hurdle stakes with Galway Kid (Ire) for Hudson River Farm and jockey Bernie Dalton.

A two-time winner last year, Galway Kid pulled up in the Temple Gwathmey to open 2021 after taking a big lead early. Dalton tempered that strategy with a patient trip, survived a last fence blunder to reel in Bedrock (GB) and stave off Gibralfaro (Ire) by a neck in the $50,000 hurdle feature.

■ **Leslie Young** enjoyed a double at Virginia Gold Cup. The Pennsylvania-based conditioner sent out Perfect Tapatino (Fr) to win his hurdle debut for Leipers Fork Steeplechasers and jockey Tom Garner. The son of Perfect Soul (Ire) raced for Joseph O'Brien before making three starts for Hall of Famer Roger Attfield in 2020. Plucked from the Fasig-Tipton February mixed sale for $11,000, the 7-year-old tracked leader Compass Zone before rallying to win by 1¼ lengths over Ritzy A.P.

Young added her second score when Makkadangdang (GB) scored for Boudinot Farms. Garner did the riding to score by 3 lengths over Argentic (Fr). The win made up for a disqualification for interference in the stretch at Radnor two weeks earlier.

■ New jockeys **Harrison Beswick** and **Jamie Bargary** notched their first and second American victories.

Beswick guided Noah And The Ark (Ire) to win the Carolina Cup and tacked on a win in the ratings hurdle with Junonia for Kinross Farm and trainer Neil Morris at the Virginia Gold Cup.

Bargary guided first-time jump starter Mini P (Ire) for Hurricana Farm and trainer Arch Kingsley to win the maiden at the Carolina Cup. He then upset the steeplethon at the Gold Cup with a front-running score aboard Duc de Meran (Fr) for Irv Naylor and trainer Cyril Murphy.

■ Apprentice **Mell Boucher** earned her first win at Willowdale, guiding Virginia-bred Ismusbemyluckyday for Kuhn's Dominion and mother/trainer Lilith Boucher. The jockey added another win to her docket at Tryon with The Happy Giant for owner/trainer Allison Fulmer. ■

Ups and Downs

McKenna sees it all with Mystic Strike

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOD MARKS

"Outhouse. Penthouse. Penthouse. Outhouse. Penthouse."

That's how trainer Todd McKenna described the spring season with his timber star Mystic Strike. The 12-year-old veteran slipped on the flat at My Lady's Manor April 10. A week later, he pulled up when jockey Chris Gracie's stirrup leather broke over the first fence at the Grand National. A week after that, he won the Middleburg Hunt Cup at Middleburg. Two weeks later, he won the Radnor Hunt Cup at Radnor. Two weeks after that, he slipped on an early turn in the Virginia Gold Cup. Actually, it was outhouse, outhouse, penthouse, penthouse, outhouse.

Mystic Strike flies a fence en route to victory at Radnor, one of his two wins (to counter three races he didn't finish) this spring.

But who's counting?

"Back and forth. Back and forth," McKenna said. "In a nutshell, it's having to catch a loose horse and not compete in the race he's in, you love to see your horse give his best shot against the best in his division."

Mystic Strike earned $27,000 for Upland Partners.

"I turned him out this morning, he ripped off and bucked, spun around," McKenna said in June. "I was like, 'Man, we left one on the table.' Three races in a month is about as much as I would have ever done."

Tom Garner guided Mystic Strike to the wins. At Middleburg, the son of Smart Strike established a dawdling pace in the five-horse field and easily turned away former hurdle champion Zanjabeel (GB) by 4¼ lengths. Two weeks later at Radnor, the style was upended as former hurdle stakes winner Storm Team ripped on the front end, forcing Mystic Strike to reel him in with a long, gallant rally to score by a hard-fought neck.

"I don't mean to sound arrogant but I thought it would come up light," McKenna said of the open timber race. "I entered my maiden, our goal was the Gold Cup, on entry day, I changed. We had no rain for a couple of weeks and no rain in the forecast, I was like, 'This horse is going to have to train on this ground, why not go to Radnor and have a good spin there and treat it like a good work.' It was 10 times the work. Those times were close to hurdle fractions."

Mystic Strike made his career debut way back in 2012 at Calder for trainer Phil Gleaves and breeder Vegso Racing Stable. Like most timber horses, it was a winding road from there. Allowance races in Florida led to claimers at Belmont, then claimers at Monmouth Park and Laurel and a win against $5,000 claimers for Gumpster Stable and trainer Kieron Magee at Charles Town in December 2014. That's when McKenna made a road trip, arriving at Magee's barn at Pimlico, shank in one hand, check in the other.

"Credit to Annie Yeager. You look and you look and you look. She said this one is not too bad. I drove down, I was going to put it off and Annie said 'Get your ass down there,'" McKenna said. "I skipped out on fox hunting and went down on a Saturday morning. As soon as he pulled him out of the stall, I was like, 'I've got to have this horse.'"

Gelded and turned out for six months, Mystic Strike won his timber debut at Winterthur in May 2016 and has earned a check in every start–completed start–since with five stakes victories including a My Lady's Manor and two Pennsylvania Hunt Cups.

"He's just a machine. He's the gift that keeps on giving," McKenna said. "He's well put together, he's got a good brain, he was a bit tough when I first got him, he was still a horse, he's matured into his role. He's just a cool individual. He runs year in, year out. The only thing is that his hourglass is running out. He's 12. If only we could reverse time."

McKenna enjoyed a strong season with his small string, adding the Carolina Cup to the ledger with Noah And The Ark (Ire). Moved to May 22 because of Covid, the historic Carolina Cup was changed to a handicap for horses rated 125 and lower in the National Steeplechase Association ratings system. Perfect for the then 119-rated Noah And The Ark, who rallied late on the inside to catch veteran Show Court (Ire) and win going away by 3 lengths.

"He's a nice little horse, his two point-to-points proved to me that he was in good form. There are only so many places you can run a 119 this spring," McKenna said. "I had seen the videos, every race was from well off the pace, I didn't know how that translates to U.S. ground, you're watching that up a hill on one of their courses, we hadn't seen it yet but he hadn't had the opportunity to show that turn of foot."

Owned by Keystone Thoroughbreds, the son of Irish-bred Vinnie Roe provided jockey Harrison Beswick with his first win in his first ride in the United States.

"We met in Saratoga, his cousin is a partner in the horse," McKenna said. "I was worried that it's a different style over here, for him to land on Wednesday and ride his first race on Saturday and find his way through traffic like that was impressive." ■

In Memoriam

RAY MAMONE

Ray Mamone, who campaigned top sprinter Imperial Hint among others, died in May. He was 88.

The Brooklyn native and New Jersey resident owned Ray's Auto Body in Somerville, N.J., for more than 40 years before retiring in 1983. In retirement, the owner/breeder campaigned a small racing stable led unquestionably by Imperial Hint. The Florida-bred won 14 races for Mamone and trainer Luis Carvajal Jr., piling up $2,209,055 in earnings and being considered for championship honors in 2017 and 2018. He twice placed in the Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1, and won the Grade 1 Vosburgh and Alfred Vanderbilt twice each. His 2019 Vanderbilt win in 1:07.92 broke the historic 6-furlong track record at Saratoga shared by Spanish Riddle (1972) and Speightstown at 1:08.

Though technically bred by Shade Tree Thoroughbreds in Florida, Imperial Hint went way back with Mamone as he bred and/or raced the horse's first four dams–Royal Hint, Ray's Trial, New Jersey-bred stakes winner Ray's Gift and 10-time winner Castles Gift. Mamone gave Royal Hint to Shade Tree, where he kept his mares, but bought her son privately as a 2-year-old. Imperial Hint stands at stud in Louisiana.

RICK PORTER

Owner and breeder Rick Porter, whose Fox Hill Farm campaigned 2011 Horse of the Year Havre de Grace, champion filly Songbird and Grade 1 winners Hard Spun, Round Pond, Omaha Beach, Joyful Victory and Jostle among others, died at Christiana

TOD MARKS

Rick Porter

Hospital near his home in Delaware June 6. He was 80.

Porter, whose horses earned more than $32 million (including three wins this year), battled various forms of cancer for 20 years. The owner of a successful network of car dealerships in Newark, Del., Porter bought his first racehorse in 1994 and ultimately found success at the highest levels of racing.

Havre de Grace won nine of 16 starts and earned $2,586,175, fueled by that championship campaign–which included a victory over males in the Woodward Stakes-G1 at Saratoga–in 2011. Trained by Larry Jones, she won five graded stakes that year. Based in California with Jerry Hollendorfer, Songbird went undefeated in four starts as a 2-year-old to win the Eclipse Award as champion juvenile filly in 2015. She repeated the championship the next year, winning her first seven including Grade 1 triumphs in the Santa Anita Oaks, Coaching Club American Oaks, Alabama and Cotillion. She lost the Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 by a nose to champion older mare Beholder to end the 2016 season, then won two more Grade 1 stakes–including Porter's hometown Delaware Handicap–in 2017. First or second in all 15 lifetime starts, counting 13 wins and two seconds in photos finishes, Songbird earned $4,692,000 and sold for $9.5 million as a broodmare prospect in November 2017.

Fox Hill horses twice finished second in the Kentucky Derby-G1, Hard Spun in 2007 and the filly Eight Belles a year later. She fractured both front ankles galloping out after the race and was euthanized on the track and is buried in the garden of the Kentucky Derby Museum at the track. In 2019, Omaha Beach was a Derby favorite but was scratched with an entrapped epiglottis four days before the race. Porter also campaigned current Maryland stallion Friesan Fire, whose offspring include Grade 1 winner Army Mule and graded stakes winner Call Paul. Fox Hill also owned 2009 champion sprinter Kodiak Kowboy in partnership with Vinery Stables.

In 2018, Porter launched the National Thoroughbred Welfare Organization aimed at keeping Thoroughbreds out of the slaughter pipeline and improve racetrack safety.

Survivors include his wife Betsy, sons Cory and Scott, daughter Tracey, and seven grandchildren.

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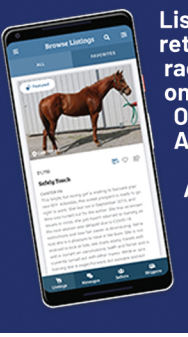

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Sire Power

Buyers step up for Maryland-sired juveniles at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale

By Cindy Deubler

In a year where juveniles by Tapit or Curlin sold for less than $50,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale, a half-dozen Maryland sires saw larger figures, including a number of pinhook scores.

The two highest-priced Maryland-sired juveniles were not only by Country Life Farm stallions, but successful pinhooks.

Divining Rod, his oldest foals 2-year-olds this year, had a Maryland-bred son sell to Randy Morse for Donna Clark for $135,000; the colt out of Thievery had sold at last fall's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale for $25,000. A Friesan Fire colt brought a final bid of $130,000 for LBD Stable and West Point Thoroughbreds, L.E.B. agent. Out of a half-sister to Grade 1-winning Friesan Fire-sired Army Mule, he sold last fall at the Midlantic sale for $38,000.

The pinhook market for offspring of Maryland sires has its challenges, as Country Life Farm's Josh Pons said. "It's a pretty discouraging bar sometimes in Maryland that you don't get the love from the out-of-towners. Pinhookers will tell you that it's difficult to spend a lot of money for a Maryland-sired yearling and then get it back as a 2-year-old. There's a bias against regional stallions, not just imagined."

Fasig-Tipton Photo

A Maryland-bred colt from the first crop of Divining Rod was a $25,000 yearling resold for $135,000 seven months later.

The Divining Rod—Thievery colt was bred by Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd., which co-owns the sire and supported him heavily his first breeding seasons. Tony Bowling's All In Sales purchased him at the October sale. When Pons saw him seven months later he saw a lot of improvement.

"The Thievery grew up to be a really muscular, quick, correct, balanced. . . you can't always see that as yearlings. And then he worked good."

The colt is Bowling's biggest regionally bred pinhook home run. Bowling saw the yearling colt as an "outstanding physical. . . I went into the ring thinking I could get him for 10-15 thousand and kept stretching it."

This spring, Bowling didn't initially anticipate six-figures, but did by the time he was ready to ship to the May sale. "He was working really well at home, he was beautiful on the lead shank, was very good

minded. I felt everything came together."

Of the 20 Maryland-sired 2-year-olds this year that exited the ring for $25,000 or more, more than half were pinhooks bringing at least twice of what they last sold for.

Country Life Farm had its hands all over another Divining Rod colt, out of the Not For Love mare Lawless Love, sold initially as a weaning for $3,000. A Country Life racing partnership went in for $60,000 to get him back.

"We bred him. We had the broodmare partnership [one of the Raise You LLCs] for two years–foal two babies, breed the mare back and sell her. So we foaled him, sold him as a weanling for $3,000," Pons said. "We're trying to minimize the expenses on the LLC. Those Raise You LLCs were designed to get people into the breeding business and get them eligible to collect breeders awards and perhaps sell a horse well. A number of people in those partnerships were introduced to the breeding game and stayed in it. A lot of times we'd sell the babies for the LLC and buy for a new LLC that was comprised of people who wanted to continue to support that individual.

"Three or four people in on the mare originally hopped back into the [2-year-old]."

Pons noted: "If he wins, he'll help the original people who were in the partnership. And he'll be a banner horse for Divining Rod.

"There are very few farms who support their stallions as strongly as we do to try to make them–this is just an example of that. It's worked for us."

Shamrock Farm stallion Barbados has had a number of highlights from a small number of foals in his first two crops, the most recent a $50,000 sales 2-year-old. "First Barbados colt to sell at a 2-year-old in training sale brought $50,000. Big return on a $2,500 stud fee!" Shamrock Farm posted on Facebook.

The first foal out of the Curlin mare Ol Sanish, Barbados' chestnut son–bred in Maryland by Shamrock Farm manager Jim Steele–was sold by Wes Carter, who purchased him as a yearling last October for $7,000. This year's buyer was Herbert Kushner.

Other Maryland-sired sales horses to more than double their last sales price were:

A Golden Lad—Sacred Honor, by Speightstown colt, a $5,000 Midlantic sales yearling; sold by Classic Bloodstock Agent and purchased by Chuck Zacney for $70,000.

A colt by Editorial—Ghost River, by Ghostzapper, $11,000 as a short yearling at the 2020 Ocala Winter mixed sale; sold by Whitman Sales LLC agent; purchased by Eric A. Delvalle for $47,000.

A filly by Kobe's Back—Tiz a Valentine, by Tiznow, a $10,000 Keeneland September sales yearling; sold by Little Farm Equine agent; purchased by Bradley Thoroughbreds for $35,000.

A colt by Madefromlucky—A Lady With an Ace, by First Samurai, a $15,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall sales yearling; sold by All In Sales agent; purchased by Jeff Nash for $35,000.

A filly by Golden Lad—Michaels Butterfly, by Jump Start, a $12,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall sales yearling; sold by Wes Carter; purchased by Mojallali Stable for $28,000.

A filly by Mosler—Laura's Moon, by Malibu Moon, a $9,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall sales yearling; sold by Crane Thoroughbred Services; purchased by Michael Pender agent for 3 Wheel Joe South for $25,000.

A Pennsylvania-sired filly by Uncle Lino, who moved to Maryland for the 2021 season, brought $97,000 on a bid from Richie's World Stables. Out of the Storm Cat mare Argentina consigned by Whitman Sales, she sold at last fall's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale for $10,000. ❧

They shall not grow old

In newsrooms and in magazine offices, the cabinet containing clippings and background material is called "the morgue." The attic in the old farmhouse at Country Life fulfills that role–a morgue file, a repository, not only for ancestral family members, but for eight decades of farm horses as well.

Letters and photographs of grandparents and parents, with mementos: An old wristwatch, a necklace, a rosary. For the horses: conformation photos, articles from local newspapers, from trade journals of the horse business. Halters. Brass nameplates from their stallion barn stalls. Photos from *Maryland Horse* features, from *The Blood-Horse*, from *Daily Racing Form*.

Only one rule to make it to the attic archives: You got to be dead.

Malibu Moon's first conformation shot taken at Country Life Farm in the fall of his 2-year-old season.

To write this brief and odd elegy to our stallion Malibu Moon, who died May 18 at age 24 of a heart attack at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky, I carried a black plastic basket up the three flights of stairs to the attic. Twenty-some years of Malibu Moon biography material I'd saved off-site: his arrival in Maryland as a 2-year-old in 1999, his four years at stud here before we sent him to Kentucky, his career in the Bluegrass as an elite stallion, as the sire of a Kentucky Derby winner among his total of 136 stakes winners (and still counting), as the leading son of leading sire A.P. Indy.

An out-of-body experience overcomes me as I open packets of drugstore-developed photographs from 1999, red-ink italics pre-printed on envelopes: Share Your Memories, Treasured Moments.

Here's Malibu Moon the first time I set eyes on him, that July 4 weekend, one month after his knee surgery to stabilize a slab fracture incurred in his second start–an impressive maiden win, garnering acclamation as the best 2-year-old in California. He is turned out in a small paddock at B. Wayne Hughes' lay-up farm a few hundred yards from the Pacific Ocean, mere

Malibu Moon at 2–who knew what the future would hold? The A.P. Indy colt with Seth Semkin in California (top) recuperating from knee surgery; arriving at Country Life; his first day of turn out.

steps from the resort town of Malibu Beach. His left knee is shaved, stitches visible in the photographs. Top horseman Seth Semkin manages the Malibu farm, reaches over the board fence to rub the halterless face of the young colt.

Three months pass. The knee knits. The stitches come out. Malibu Moon leaves Malibu, lays over in Kentucky, hops on Scott Alexander's van for Maryland. I snap photos on his arrival that September. Mystery face behind loading chute boards, that's his first step onto his new home. Then he emerges, four white bandages on his legs, handsome head, tight ear, flat forehead, star and snip. He's 2 years old but looks 5, a swinging walk on a mature big-boned frame. His feet, though, are small; no matter–a mark of Mr. Prospector-line horses, his mother's father.

His first day of turnout, I position men in every corner of his paddock. He runs by them in a blur, my wife Ellen taking photographs of this horse in a hurry. By October, we hurry to take his formal portraits for stallion registers, before the farm's green backdrop begins to compete in glorious autumn colors. Ellen takes my favorite photo of our history with Malibu Moon: His 2-year-old conformation portrait. I never tire of seeing him in that photo. It's always fresh. It always leads me to consider the future, reflect on the past. It's the spell artwork lays on you.

I stand back from the black basket of morgue material. I don't want to dig any further. I think that's all I'll write for now of my treasured memories of Malibu Moon.

– Josh Pons

Malibu Moon

1997, A.P. Indy–Macoumba, by Mr. Prospector

Leading sire Malibu Moon, who stood his first four seasons at the Pons family's Country Life Farm in Maryland, died of an apparent heart attack in his paddock at Spendthrift Farm May 18. He was 24. The son of A.P. Indy was a perennial leading sire in North America and sired the likes of Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Orb, Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old Declan's Moon and Grade 1 winners Gormley, Magnum Moon, Life At Ten, Carina Mia and Come Dancing among a long list of standouts.

His stud career began at Country Life in 2000, where his fee was $3,000. His first crop included graded winner Perfect Moon. Declan's Moon, who won his first five starts, was part of the stallion's second crop. Malibu Moon moved to Kentucky in 2004, standing at Castleton Lyons, and moved to Spendthrift (which owner B. Wayne Hughes purchased in 2004) in 2007. Malibu Moon's stud feed climbed to $95,000 following Orb's Derby win.

Trained for Hughes by Mel Stute, Malibu Moon raced just twice, both at Hollywood Park–a second in his debut and a win in his second start–before injuring his knee. He was bred by Hughes, out of the French Group 1-winning Mr. Prospector mare Macoumba.

Governor's Cup awards presented

Armata Stables' 2021 Maryland Hunt Cup and My Lady's Manor Timber Stakes winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire) was named Maryland Governor's Cup Horse of the Year by the Maryland Steeplechase Association. The Maryland Governor's Cup Series recognizes the top performers in events throughout the state. The 2021 awards were to be presented June 17 at the association's annual awards reception at the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club in Owings Mills.

Trained by Joe Davies for owners Perry Bolton and Ben Griswold IV, 12-year-old Vintage Vinnie set a course record of 8:22.60 for the 4 miles while cruising home (not a typo) 112½ lengths in front in the 124th Maryland Hunt Cup under Dan Nevin. Two weeks earlier Chris Gracie was aboard for the 5¼-length victory in the My Lady's Manor. They were Vintage Vinnie's only sanctioned starts of the spring.

There was a tie for top Maryland-bred. Road to Oz, a 6-year-old son of Quality Road bred by R. Larry Johnson, owned by Dan Baker's Holwood Stable and trained by Mark Beecher, won the Thomas H. Voss Memorial on the My Lady's Manor card. Include It (bred by Fitzhugh LLC, owned by Riverdee Stable and trained by Todd J. Wyatt) was a winner the next week in the Western Run Plate at the Grand National.

Top rider Eddie Keating started the season with a win at the Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point, had four wins at the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Point-to-Point, and also won at My Lady's Manor, Grand National (twice) and Potomac Hunt Races.

Leading trainer Mark Beecher sent out three winners at Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point, won at My Lady's Manor and had two winners at the Potomac Hunt Races. ❧

Maryland Governor's Cup Horse of the Year (Open Timber Champion): Vintage Vinnie (Ire) (Armata Stables)

Maryland Novice Timber Champion: Road to Oz (Holwood Stables)

Amateur/Apprentice Timber Horse and Rider Champion: Flash Jackson (Chris Gracie)

Heavyweight Timber Champion: Goodoldtimes (Ire) (Armata Stables)

Leading Maryland-bred Horse of the Year *(two-way tie)*: Road to Oz (Holwood Stables); Include It (Riverdee Stable)

Leading Maryland Million-sired Horse of the Year: Master Seville (South Branch Farms)

H. Turney McKnight Leading Owner: Armata Stables

Leading trainer: Mark Beecher

H. Brooks Durkee Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Leading Timber Rider: Eddie Keating

Thomas H. Voss Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Leading Amateur Rider: Eddie Keating

Overall Leading Rider: Eddie Keating

Leading Lady Rider: Skylar McKenna

Voss Amateur Flat Series: Eddie Keating

Leading junior small pony rider: William Slater

Leading junior medium pony rider: Carly Kern

Leading junior large pony rider: Thomas Houghton

Overall pony rider: Carly Kern

Leading junior horse rider: Jaidyn Shore

Austin Tamberino Memorial Leading Junior Rider Award: Jaidyn Shore

The Jonathan Kiser Memorial Scholarship: Patrick Gallegher

The D.M. Smithwick Jr Junior Foxchasing Scholarship: Carly Kern, Jaidyn Shore

Maryland Foal Report

ALTER RHYTHM, by Alternation, ch.c., April 21, by Rainbow Heir. New Farm. Mare to Rainbow Heir.

ANGEL OF THE NILE, by Pioneerof the Nile, ch.f., March 31, by Alliance. Maria M. Haire.

ANOFFICERANDALADY, by Officer, b.c., April 25, by Bandbox. Thornmar and Colleen Torsney.

ANYDAYISMYDAY, by Afleet Alex, b.f., April 1, by Hard Spun. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Hard Spun.

AROMA DE MUJER, by Trippi, b.f., May 20, by Carpe Diem. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to Divining Rod.

AWESOME SONG, by Awesome Again, b.c., March 12, by Midnight Storm. Maria M. Haire.

BAZINGA B, by Lion Hearted, b.c., April 24, by Uncle Lino. Joseph Besecker.

BEAR SLAYER, by Two Punch, b.c., March 28, by Uncle Lino. Morgan Dove.

BECKON THE QUEEN, by Ghazi, b.f., April 12, by Great Notion. David Krasnoff.

BRAVUCONA, by Spring At Last, ch.c., March 18, by Race Day. Dan Foster.

CHARM CITY, by City Zip, b.c., May 4, by Bourbon Courage. Dr. Ronald H. Parker. Mare to Imagining.

CHESTNUT GROVE, by Street Cry (Ire), dk.b./br.c., May 12, by Arrogate. Timothy J. Rooney.

CODE NAME TAURUS, by Bullsbay, b.f., March 5, by Peace and Justice. Erika Neuberg.

DEEDS NOT WORDS, by Street Sense, b.c., March 4, by First Mondays. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Midnight Lute.

DELIGHTFULLSTORM, by Stormy Atlantic, b.f., April 14, by Great Notion. Stephen Ferguson.

DIVA'S GOLD, by Tenpins, b.f., April 3, by Golden Lad. Kasey K Racing Stable.

DOMESTIC BLISS, by Domestic Dispute, ch.f., April 22, by Madefromlucky. Charles McGill.

ECLIPTICAL MARY, by In Summation, b.c., April 18, by Midnight Storm. Maria M. Haire.

ECLIPTICALSPHARAOH, by Eclipticalspraline, b.f., March 21, by Neolithic. Maria M. Haire.

ELECTRIC VENUS, by Flatter, dk.b./br.f., May 5, by Cloud Computing. Barak Farm.

EVERLASTING SECRET, by Leroidesanimaux (Brz), ch.c., March 22, by Super Ninety Nine. Dr. Frances Berkeley Luther.

FOOLS PRINCESS, by Bellamy Road, b.c., April 22, by Golden Lad. Karmac Stables LLC.

FREQUENTLY, by Discreetly Mine, b.f., April 10, by Boisterous. Emma V. Krohn.

GANSETT, by Jump Start, b.c., April 3, by Mosler. Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm.

GLIMPSE, by Touch Gold, b.c., April 25, by Midshipman. Thornmar. Mare to Hoppertunity.

GOODONEHONEY, by Great Notion, b.f., April 6, by Golden Lad. Kasey K Racing Stable.

HAPPY HAILEY, by Rock Slide, b.c., May 8, by No Never No More. George Louis Doetsch Jr.

HAWAIIAN SUNSET, by In Summation, b.c., April 6, by Neolithic. Maria M. Haire.

Midshipman—Di's Delight colt, bred by Larry Karp's Barlar LLC, is a half-brother to Grade 1 winner Mirth and 2021 Grade 2 winner Vault.

Big Lick Farm and Erin Atkiss are the breeders of the Point of Entry colt out of stakes-placed Leda's Swan born May 6 at Marathon Farm.

Gun Runner filly out of Ubu (by Silver Train) was bred by Big Lick Farm and foaled at Marathon Farm.

Lydia A. Williams (4)

Filly by Warrior's Reward bred by Helen Marshall is out of Noble Nation (by Cal Nation). Second dam, multiple stakes winner Noble Maz, also produced Louisiana Derby-G2 winner Noble Indy.

HER BIG MOMENT, by Awesome Again, b.f., April 5, by Outwork. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Lookin At Lucky.

HONEY BUN, by Scipion, dk.b./br.f., May 4, by Madefromlucky. Thornmar.

HONOR N GRACE, by Peppered Cat, ch.f., March 31, by Bandbox. Ann Spinelli.

INGLORIOUS SONG, by Broken Vow, b.c., March 10, by Klimt. Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC.

JUST SAY GOODBYE, by Not For Love, b.f., May 8, by Golden Lad. Thornmar.

KAISER'S D'LIGHT, by The Kaiser, b.c., April 25, by Warrior's Reward. Oliver H. Keithly.

LIGHTNIN LIZZIE, by Lightnin N Thunder, ch.f., April 20, by Uncle Lino. Oliver H. Keithly.

LIKE CANDY, by Candy Ride (Arg), ch.f., April 16, by Uncle Lino. Oliver H. Keithly.

LOVE YOU CRAZY, by Touch Gold, b.c., March 31, by Hoppertunity. Maria M. Haire.

MALABAR, by Tapizar, b.f., March 12, by Great Notion. Paige Mohan.

MEOW, by Gio Ponti, b.f., March 7, by Practical Joke. Paul O'Loughlin and Jeff Matty.

MERRY BERRY, by Louis Quatorze, b.c., April 25, by Blofeld. Thornmar.

MISS ADELE, by Speightstown, ch.f., April 16, by Mendelssohn. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to Game Winner.

MISS AVALON, by Jump Start, b.c., March 9, by Golden Lad. David Wade, Paul O'Loughlin and Jeff Matty.

MISS MANATEE, by Smarty Jones, b.c., March 9, by Outwork. Maria M. Haire.

MISS NOSY, by Louis Quatorze, b.c., May 8, by Biblical. MCA Racing Stable LLC. Mare to Biblical.

MOSTLY ELVIS, by Peace Rules, ch.c., April 22, by Golden Lad. Maria M. Haire.

MURMUR, by Arch, b.f., April 19, by Karakontie (Jpn). Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Collected.

MY GOLDEN BELLE, by My Golden Song, b.f., April 24, by The Factor. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to Violence.

MY STAR POTENTIAL, by Tritap, dk.b./br.c., April 13, by Speightster. Valter Ramos.

NEARLY A NOTION, by Great Notion, ch.c., March 1, by Hoppertunity. Erika Neuberg.

NEW LONDON, by Rockport Harbor, b.c., March 21, by Alliance. Maria M. Haire.

ONE MORE SHOE, by Giacomo, b.f., March 15, by Irish War Cry. Northview Stallion Station Inc.

PEACH OF A GAL, by Curlin, ch.c., Jan. 21, by Kantharos. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Nyquist.

PEARLY BEACH, by Tiznow, ch.c., Feb. 24, by First Mondays. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to First Mondays.

PRET SAY EYE, by Ready's Image, b.f., April 22, by Golden Lad. Joseph Besecker.

RICHETTA, by Polish Numbers, b.f., April 12, by Collected. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Daredevil.

ROBBINETTE, by Eavesdropper, ch.f., May 17, by Madefromlucky. Mezza Luna Farm LLC. Mare to Madefromlucky.

RUBIESANDWRANGLERS, by Fairbanks, b.c., April 5, by Madefromlucky. Lee Vosters.

SAAR TREATY, by Saarland, b.f., April 21, by Golden Lad. Paul O'Loughlin.

SECRET AFFAIR, by Can the Man, b.f., April 6, by Cinco Charlie. Hannah LuRae Minnich and Bryan Minnich.

SHILOH ROAD, by Congrats, ch.f., March 21, by Klimt. Joseph Besecker.

SIX TONSAFUN, by Not For Love, b.c., April 15, by Golden Lad. Walter Vieser.

SKY WISE, by Smarty Jones, ch.f., April 2, by Golden Lad. Horseshoe Valley Equine.

SMART JERSEY, by Jersey Town, ch.c., March 17, by Golden Lad. Patrick Kane.

SOME KINDA LOVE, by Not For Love, b.f., May 8, by Great Notion. Thornmar.

SONNY'S PHAROAH, by Pioneerof the Nile, b.f., April 11, by Golden Lad. Maria M. Haire.

STAGED AFFAIR, by Not For Love, ch.f., March 12, by Madefromlucky. Waldorf Racing Stables LLC.

STORMY RUN, by Frost Giant, dk.b./br.f., March 14, by Uncle Lino. Karmac Stables LLC.

STUTTGART, by Cherokee Run, ch.f., April 25, by Madefromlucky. Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC.

THIS IS NICE (IRE), by Exceed And Excel, ch.c., March 3, by Golden Lad. Mr. and Mrs. A. John Price.

TRIPPIN' ALONG, by Trippi, b.c., April 26, by Midnight Storm. Maria M. Haire.

TWO WAY ROAD, by Quality Road, b.c., April 23, by Hoppertunity. Joseph Besecker.

UNIFORMLY YOURS, by Grand Slam, b.c., April 26, by More Than Ready. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to American Pharoah.

YEARDLEY, by Don't Get Mad, b.f., April 24, by Midnight Storm. Maria M. Haire.

Stakem joins MHBA staff to oversee registrations, member services

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association added a new full-time staff member as of mid-June. Emily Stakem joins the MHBA team, taking on the role of registrar as well as overseeing membership and subscription services.

A native of Reisterstown, 25-year-old Stakem is a 2018 graduate from Washington College in Chestertown, Md. In her new role, she will be handling Maryland-bred registrations, updating magazine subscriptions and answering any questions about MHBA membership.

Stakem previously was program coordinator for the Maryland Horse Council Foundation's Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS), which provides safe alternatives for horses needing homes by helping owners identify and select the best options for their horses. Prior to that she interned for the publication *The Chronicle of the Horse* in Virginia.

Sara Gordon

Taking on her new position was intriguing to Stakem, who fell in love with horses in elementary school during a field trip when given the opportunity to ride a pony.

A former show horse rider in high school and college, where she majored in English, Stakem used her writing talents to contribute to the *Chronicle*, with a focus on the show world. She notes with METS she "found a niche within the rescue community and less so for sport, since most of the people that come to us or that we interact with are just for pleasure or just companion."

Working in the Thoroughbred breeding industry allows Stakem the opportunity to expand her knowledge even more. "It's something new in a part of the [horse] industry that I'm not a part of."

Her prior office experiences allowed her to connect to people. At the *Chronicle* it was while doing interviews; with METS it was speaking with people on the phone. "I want them to feel comfortable asking for help. I think learning how to connect with people in that way has been really beneficial for me since that was a huge part of my job, connecting with owners and allowing them to allow me to help them."

Stakem is excited for the new opportunity. "I'm hoping to find Thoroughbred connections and just continue my education as a horse person, as a professional in that aspect. I just love learning more about the industry, and we're in such a fantastic place to do it.

"So now this shift [to Thoroughbred breeding and racing], which is obviously sport but a different aspect of the sport than what I'm used to. It's like you could do something different every year for your whole life and still not do everything with horses that you could."

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
March 1 to March 31, 2021

Conniver Stakes

March 13. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 19 nominations.) Winner: KISS THE GIRL, by Into Mischief. Breeder bonus: Classic Thoroughbred XII ($6,187.50). Stallion bonus: None. Second: LOOKIN DYNAMIC, by Lookin At Lucky. Breeder bonus: Fitzhugh LLC ($2,062.50). Stallion bonus: None. Third: WHISPERING PINES, by Uncle Mo. Breeder bonus: Sagamore Farm LLC ($1,031.25). Stallion bonus: None.

Not For Love Stakes

March 13. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 6 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 27 nominations.) Winner: WHERESHETOLDME-TOGO, by El Padrino. Breeder bonus: David H. Wade ($6,187.50). Stallion bonus: None. Second: KARAN'S NOTION, by Great Notion. Breeder bonus: Nancy B. Heil ($2,062.50). Stallion bonus: Great Notion Syndicate ($687). Third: DAY THE MUSIC DIED, by Maclean's Music. Breeder bo-

nus: R. Larry Johnson ($1,031.25). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Finn's Nickel, LLC—EXCULPATORY: March 5, 7th race, $5,700.

David Baxter Sr.—WALK IT OUT NANNY: March 13, 1st race, $605.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—ZIP THE LIP: March 19, 1st race, $742.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Adena Springs—MICE AND MEN: March 21, 8th race, $1,837.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—STREET LUTE: March 13, 3rd race, $1,375.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—CLAIRE'S DARLING: March 5, 1st race, $605.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and R. Larry Johnson—PETES PRIDE: March 20, 5th race, $2,137.50.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—CONGRESS HALL: March 20, 5th race, $787.50.

Classic Thoroughbred XII—KISS THE GIRL: March 13, 7th race, $6,187.50.

Cordelia Stables LLC—IMAGINE VICTORY: March 13, 1st race, $1,155.

Country Life Farm—ALOYSIUS LUCK: March 14, 3rd race, $2,100.

Country Life Farm and Curio Broodmare LLC—TARGE: March 14, 2nd race, $935.

Country Life Farm and Moon Map Broodmare LLC—TOMMY SHELBY: March 21, 8th race, $962.50.

CRK Stable LLC—EXCELLORATOR: March 13, 8th race, $1,375.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—ROCKIN-HIPPIECHICK: March 19, 5th race, $1,417.50.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—HUFFLEPUFF: March 7, 5th race, $1,575.

Fitzhugh LLC—LOOKIN DYNAMIC: March 13, 7th race, $2,062.50. SHERIFF'S KID: March 20, 2nd race, $945. WELLING: March 14, 9th race, $632.50. ($3,640)

Robert E. Gamber—DO I EVER: March 7, 1st race, $2,565.

Greenspring Mares LLC—WRITTENBYTHE-STARS: March 19, 5th race, $742.50.

Nancy B. Heil—KARAN'S NOTION: March 13, 5th race, $2,062.50.

Hillwood Stable LLC—DREAM BIG DREAMS: March 14, 3rd race, $5,700.

R. Larry Johnson—BLUE SKY PAINTER: March 7, 2nd race, $997.50. DAY THE MUSIC DIED: March 13, 5th race, $1,031.25. THUNDERIN-THEVALLEY: March 19, 9th race, $2,565. ($4,593.75)

Joanne P. Krishack—COMMANDING GENERAL: March 6, 1st race, $3,135.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—DIVA OF SE-VILLE: March 7, 1st race, $495.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—FEATURE ACT: March 19, 4th race, $412.50. MINE NOT MINE: March 14, 7th race, $1,575. ($1,987.50)

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—NO MORE TALK: March 5, 3rd race, $945. CORD-MAKER: March 13, 6th race, $8,250. ($9,195)

Daniel E. Marconi—GALERIO: March 13, 6th race, $2,750.

Charles C.D. McGill—CRY NO MORE: March 21, 6th race, $5,700.

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—ZEN PI: March 13, 9th race, $825.

Mill Hill Stable LLC—MILLIE CHILD: March 21, 2nd race, $632.50.

Kevin P. Morgan—MANKLIN CREEK: March 21, 9th race, $945.

Audrey R. Murray—PAY THE KID: March 19, 2nd race, $945.

Nancy Lee Farms—BANDOLINI: March 14, 5th race, $2,137.50. POLISH COOKIE: March 6, 5th race, $907.50; March 21, 1st race, $1,732.50. SING A VERSE: March 20, 1st race, $412.50. ($5,190)

Ronald Harris Parker—SUNDAY IN L B C: March 7, 3rd race, $787.50.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—HANALEI'S HOUDINI: March 5, 6th race, $2,467.50.

Quest Realty—MOONZANO: March 14, 6th race, $945.

Roland Farm—SEVILLA SANGRIA: March 7, 3rd race, $412.50.

Timothy J. Rooney—BALLIVOR: March 20, 4th race, $2,992.50. SEANY P: March 14, 1st race, $825. ($3,817.50)

John Ryan and Monica Ryan—PASCAL CHANT: March 20, 1st race, $2,137.50.

Sagamore Farm LLC—START WITH YES: March 19, 6th race, $412.50. WHISPERING PINES: March 13, 7th race, $1,031.25. YOUNGEST OF FIVE: March 6, 7th race, $1,237.50. ($2,681.25)

Shamrock Farm—SUE LOVES BARBADOS: March 20, 6th race, $1,155.

M. Terry Shane—MARGIE'S HEAVEN: March 20, 7th race, $5,985.

South Branch Equine LLC—WHO'S COUNTING: March 5, 4th race, $742.50.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—DOUBLE-OSEVEN: March 20, 6th race, $5,985. PAISLEY SINGING: March 14, 8th race, $2,362.50. ($8,347.50)

The Elkstone Group LLC—FULL DINNER JACK-ET: March 6, 4th race, $935. HIGHER PUR-POSE: March 5, 3rd race, $495. JOYCE G.: March 13, 4th race, $495. LIFESPAN: March 5, 5th race, $495; March 21, 3rd race, $605. TORCH OF TRUTH: March 20, 8th race, $1,237.50. ($4,262.50)

Thornmar Farm LLC—GOSH: March 5, 4th race, $1,417.50.

Thornmar Farm and Colleen Torsney—KEEP-YOURSKATESON: March 13, 2nd race, $825.

Walter N. Vieser II—ITALIAN DRESSING: March 14, 2nd race, $4,845.

David H. Wade—WHERESHETOLDMETOGO: March 13, 5th race, $6,187.50.

Janet L. Wayson—OUTSIDE THE BOX: March 20, 1st race, $787.50.

Winding Creek Farm—WHISKEY AND YOU: March 21, 8th race, $4,987.50.

Lana Wright—SICK PACK SARA: March 13, 2nd race, $4,275. WHY ROXIE WHY: March 5, 1st race, $3,135. ($7,410)

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—GOLD FINCH: March 21, 1st race, $4,702.50. SHACKLED LOVE: March 13, 8th race, $8,250. ($12,952.50)

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Bandolini: March 14, 5th race, $712.22. Dream Big Dreams: March 14, 3rd race, $1,899.24. Manklin Creek: March 21, 9th race, $314.87. Outside the Box: March 20, 1st race, $262.40): Bandbox Syndicate—$3,188.73.

BARBADOS (Sue Loves Barbados: March 20, 6th race, $384.85): Shamrock Farm.

BUFFUM (Commanding General: March 6, 1st race, $1,044.58): Buffum Syndicate.

CAL NATION (Sunday in L B C: March 7, 3rd race, $262.40): Cal Nation Syndicate

DESPITE THE ODDS (Petes Pride: March 20, 5th race, $712.22): R. Larry Johnson.

ETCHED (Pascal Chant: March 20, 1st race, $712.22): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership.

FREEDOM CHILD (Millie Child: March 21, 2nd race, $210.75): Freedom Child Syndicate.

FRIESAN FIRE (Whiskey and You: March 21, 8th race, $1,661.84): Friesan Fire Syndicate.

GOLDEN LAD (Gold Finch: March 21, 1st race, $1,566.87. Margie's Heaven: March 20, 7th race, $1,994.20. Mine Not Mine: March 14, 7th race, $524.79. Paisley Singing: March 14, 8th race, $787.19. Sick Pack Sara: March 13, 2nd race, $1,424.43): Northview Stallion Sta for Golden Lad Syndicate—$6,297.48.

GREAT NOTION (Cry No More: March 21, 6th race, $1,899.24. Italian Dressing: March 14, 2nd race, $1,614.35. Karan's Notion: March 13, 5th race, $687. Sing a Verse: March 20, 1st race, $137.45. Zen Pi: March 13, 9th race, $274.89): Great Notion Syndicate—$4,612.93.

HANGOVER KID (Pay the Kid: March 19, 2nd race, $314.87): Hangover Kid Syndicate.

IMAGINING (Claire's Darling: March 5, 1st race, $201.59. Imagine Victory: March 13, 1st race, $384.85. Zip the Lip: March 19, 1st race, $247.40): Imagining Syndicate—$833.84.

MOSLER (Aloysius Luck: March 14, 3rd race, $699.72): Country Life Farm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock.

NICANOR (Seany P: March 14, 1st race, $274.89): Nicanor Syndicate.

NOT FOR LOVE (No More Talk: March 5, 3rd race, $314.87. Torch of Truth: March 20, 8th race, $412.34): Not For Love Syndicate—$727.21.

ORIENTATE (Gosh: March 5, 4th race, $472.31): Orientate Syndicate.

PLAN (Mice and Men: March 21, 8th race, $612.26): Stronach Group LP.

SEVILLE (GER) (Diva of Seville: March 7, 1st race, $164.93. Polish Cookie: March 6, 5th race, $302.38; March 21, 1st race, $577.27. Sevilla Sangria: March 7, 3rd race, $137.45): Seville Syndicate—$1,182.03.

STREET MAGICIAN (Street Lute: March 13, 3rd race, $458): R. Larry Johnson.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Tommy Shelby: March 21, 8th race, $320.71. Walk It Out Nanny: March 13, 1st race, $201.59): Country Life Farm—$522.30.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2021

(through June 2)

1.	Knicks Go	$3,240,000	
2.	Jaxon Traveler	190,000	
3.	Street Lute	131,500	
4.	Pete's Play Call	113,564	
5.	Aloha West	99,218	
6.	Tattooed	96,800	
7.	Excellorator	96,372	
8.	Laki	95,500	
9.	I Get It	92,678	
10.	Cordmaker	92,500	
11.	Judi Blue Eyes	$90,988	
12.	Galerio	89,827	
13.	Hemp	86,768	
14.	Shackled Love	86,182	
15.	Proper Attire	82,194	
16.	Gifted Heart	80,775	
17.	Chasin Munny	78,200	
18.	Postnup	77,100	
19.	Doubleoseven	77,058	
20.	Hanalei's Houdini	74,043	

Maryland Horse Breeders Association

Business Member Spotlight

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THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **July 2021** -

In This Issue

Preakness winner Rombauer has Jersey roots

Monmouth Park enters deal with SeatGeek

Princess Georgia rallies to win Spruce Fir Handicap

Monmouth Park GM Bill Anderson named 2021 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Award recipient

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FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** on.

Preakness winner Rombauer has Jersey roots

By Bill Finley

Bill Purdey Jr. hadn't been paying much attention to Rombauer, that is until the colt won the Preakness Stakes-G1. It was then that he looked at his pedigree and saw some familiar names, ones that jumped off the page. His father had been a prominent breeder and owner in New Jersey in the 1970s, '80s and '90s and his fingerprints, Purdey discovered, are all over Rombauer's pedigree.

"If you think about it, it's a pretty neat story," said Purdey, the farm manager of his family's Greenfield Farm in Colts Neck. "I'm sure my dad would have been proud."

Purdey, who died in 2002, was a sportswriter for the old *Red Bank Register*, but racing and breeding were in his blood. His grandfather was William H. LaBoyteaux, among the top breeders in New Jersey during his time. His claim to fame was that he bred Imperatrice, the second dam of Secretariat. When LaBoyteaux passed away, his daughter, who was Purdey's mother, took over the farm and started up the Greenfields operation. Purdey inherited the farm in 1967. Greenfield is still active and stands three stallions, Don Six, Ali and IL Postino. It is also a boarding operation.

Purdey's widow, Fran, recalled that her husband wanted nothing more than to breed a quality horse.

"He loved the really good horses, the Grade 1, Grade 2 horses," she said. "He did his best. He bred to anybody who was anybody. He always tried to breed the best to the best. He would say they all look good in the winner's circle."

In the mid-1980s, Purdey finally got the type of quality stakes horse he had coveted for so long. He was the owner and breeder of New Jersey-bred Spruce Fir, the winner of 12 stakes races, four graded, including the 1989 Grade 2 Matchmaker Stakes and earner of nearly $700,000.

He did it again a few years later. The Purdey-bred Dance Floor was a star in the early 1990s. Bought by rapper M.C. Hammer for $90,000 at the Keeneland September Yearling sale, the son of Star de Naskra won three graded stakes, including the 1992 Fountain of Youth-G2, and followed with a third in the Kentucky Derby-G1.

"My husband just loved his horses.," Fran Purdey said. "He was up at six every morning and down at the barn. When Monmouth was open, he'd be over there just about every day in the stands."

The Purdey connection to Rombauer begins with a mare he bred named Jostling Queen. A foal of 1970, the mare was born in Maryland but raced in New Jersey for trainer Harry Wells. Among the first horses Purdey started, she wasn't much on the racetrack, where she won three of 19 career starts while earning $17,605. But she enjoyed much more success

as a broodmare. Her eight offspring to race all won and included Mannerism, who was second in the 1982 Longfellow Handicap-G3, and Brief Remarks, winner of the 1987 Ambassador of Luck Stakes.

Jostling Queen was also the dam of Social Conduct, a New Jersey-bred daughter of Vigors who was stakes-placed four-times and won six of 38 career starts. Social Conduct produced the mare Ultrafleet, also a Jersey-bred. Ultrafleet (by Afleet) was bought by owner John Fradkin for a mere $10,500 at the 1993 Keeneland September yearling sale.

When her career had ended, Fradkin probably wished he could got a refund. Ultrafleet ran four times, never finished better than sixth, and didn't earn a dime on the racetrack. Like Jostling Queen, her best days were yet to come.

Ultrafleet, who passed away in 2012, produced 14 foals, among them graded stakes-winning millionaire California Flag, winner of the 2009 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. There was also Grade 3 winner Cambiocorsa and Shadow Raider, who finished second in the Grade 3 Bay Meadows Breeders' Cup Handicap in 2005. Before she was done, Ultrafleet produced an unraced filly named Cashmere, by Cowboy Cal.

Cashmere is none other than the dam of Rombauer. So, Rombauer's second, third and fourth dam are all products of Purdey's breeding program, two of them New Jersey-breds.

Rombauer's dam never raced and his grand dam was a flop on the racetrack.

"It just goes to show you that the big names like Zenyatta and Rachel Alexandra, they never seem to produce a top horse," Purdey Jr. said. "It seems to me you can't have your cake and eat it too and just because you have a great race mare does not mean they will be a good producer.

"A good horse can come out of anywhere. Sometimes, it's just a matter of getting lucky. You see the Sheiks throwing money around and they still get beat."

Rombauer was among the top contenders Belmont Stakes-G3 and finished third. In eight starts he's earned $1,040,500. He is exactly the type of horse Purdey spent four decades trying to produce.

"I know my husband and he would be so happy with this horse's success," Fran Purdey said. "He would be just tickled to death."

Monmouth Park enters deal with SeatGeek

Monmouth Park has entered a multi-year deal with SeatGeek to serve as its exclusive ticketing partner, becoming the first racetrack to join the ticket company's full stack platform, it was announced today.

SeatGeek, through its mobile-focused ticket platform, gives fans the opportunity to buy and sell tickets to sporting events, concerts and theater shows.

Monmouth Park is the latest addition to a growing number of professional entities using SeatGeek as their primary ticket provider, a corporate catalog that currently includes the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints and Arizona Cardinals; the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans and Cleveland Cavaliers; Major League Soccer, and Manchester City FC and Liverpool FC of the English Premier League.

SeatGeek also recently announced a partnership with Jujamcyn Theaters and the company's five Broadway venues in New York City.

"Monmouth Park is excited to have this long-term partnership with SeatGeek," said Bill Knauf, the track's vice president of business operations. "Their technology and mobile platform are an ideal fit for Monmouth Park moving forward, especially as we look to move into a more mobile-based space.

"One of the big advantages for us as we continue to host promotions and non-racing events inside our gates and out is that SeatGeek's flexibility allows us scalability, as well as enabling us to connect with a large audience in our region."

Though admission and parking are free throughout the meet with the exception of July 17, when the $1 million TVG.com Haskell Stakes will be contested, SeatGeek will immediately handle ticket requests for live racing days for box seats, parterre rentals, the newly-renovated Dining Club and the picnic buffet.

In addition, Haskell Day tickets will be available through SeatGeek.

Fans purchasing tickets to any of the track's dining and reserved locations through SeatGeek will have access to a detailed venue map, enabling them to select their exact seating location.

SeatGeek's flexibility also allows fans to sell, receive and transfer tickets through mobile devices. Groups will be able to transfer tickets to their guests on a mobile device, eliminating the need for physical tickets.

"We're proud to bring on Monmouth Park as our full stack technology racetrack partner," said Jeff Ianello, SeatGeek's Executive Vice President of Client Partnerships. "We look forward to providing track fans a top-rated race day experience through our platform this summer and beyond."

Princess Georgia rallies to win Spruce Fir Handicap

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Calixto Juarez did his best to try to convince his son – jockey Nik Juarez – to ride the horse he trained, Princess Georgia, in the $75,000 Spruce Fir Handicap for for Jersey-bred fillies and mares, 3 and up, at Monmouth Park May 31.

When that failed, he had to settle for the next best thing: watching Princess Georgia score a late-running three-quarters length victory, doing so by running past Diamond Play in deep stretch.

Diamond Play's jockey? Nik Juarez.

The victory in the 6-furlong dash marked the elder Juarez's first stakes win as a trainer. He began training in 2014 and didn't have a starter in 2020.

"Right now, I can't touch the ground," said Juarez. "I'm sure I'll feel even better when we get the check [from the purse] but right now I am floating. I feel fantastic. And to beat my son. . . I don't know what to say.

"I asked him to ride this horse. He said 'No, I am riding the winner.' He made a mistake but kids don't always listen to their parents, so what can you do? We know it's just business. I know he is very happy for me."

Ridden by Carlos Hernandez, Princess Georgia rallied from sixth in the seven-horse field at the top of the stretch and came rolling late just as it seemed Diamond Play was a winner. It was another half-length back to 2-1 race favorite Groovy Surprise in third.

Time of the race over a fast track was 1:11.93.

"When I broke out of the gate I took back my filly because I saw the speed out there and my horse is so good at making one big run," said Hernandez. "So I wanted to wait and get her to relax. I knew when I asked her she would give me everything so I just needed to put her in a good spot.

"I knew Diamond Play was the filly to beat. That is the one Nik Juarez chose to ride so I was able to pick up the mount on this one. It worked out great for me."

The victory was the fifth in 27 career starts for the 6-year-old daughter of El Padrino—Vodka High, by Mount McKinley. It marked her third straight victory, and in her first start since returning to Juarez's care.

Juarez had her for all of 2019 before opting to stay in Florida in 2020 and not train, which prompted owner CJ Racing to turn Princess Georgia over to Alison Delgado. Juarez just got her back in May.

"She is in really top form. She has been training great since I got her back," said Juarez, a former jockey who has now won 13 races as a trainer.

Princess Georgia was bred in New Jersey by Reeve Schley III.

Monmouth Park GM Bill Anderson named 2021 Virgil "Buddy" Raines Award recipient

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

The biggest disappointment of Bill Anderson's teen years was coming to grips with the realization that he could no longer make weight to be a jockey. For his professional future, it turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to him.

A fixture at Monmouth Park since 1980 in a variety of roles, Anderson – currently the track's general manager – has been named the 2021 recipient of the Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Raines Award, now in its 26th year, is presented annually just prior to Monmouth Park's season opener.

Anderson, a former trainer and track superintendent at Monmouth Park, finds his name added to a prominent list of past Raines Award recipients who have been recognized for their professionalism, integrity and service to Thoroughbred racing.

"It's a great honor and it's especially meaningful for me because I know or knew everyone who has received this award, including Buddy Raines," said Anderson. "Monmouth Park is my home and has been for quite a while now. So it means a lot to me personally to receive this award."

Anderson's Monmouth Park-based training career spanned from 1980 to 2012 and produced 857 winners, including Grade 3 winner J J's Lucky Train. He transitioned to being Monmouth Park's track superintendent in 2012 before being named general manager in 2016.

"It's a well-deserved honor for someone who has been synonymous with Monmouth Park for as long as I can remember," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, the operators of Monmouth Park. "His work ethic and passion for Monmouth Park are things that have never wavered, from his days as a trainer to being the track superintendent to his current role as general manager."

Anderson, who hails from Minnesota, began galloping and riding horses as a teenager in the late 1950s, getting his jockey's license at the age of 16. He started riding quarter horses at Fort Pierce in South Dakota, before weight issues forced him to go in another direction. He then worked for both D. Wayne Lukas and Clyde Rice during their quarter horse days in the early 1960s before transitioning to Thoroughbreds in the late 1970s.

"When I look back it's hard to believe where my life has taken me," said Anderson. "I started at Midwest tracks that few people have ever even heard of. I thought Jefferson, South Dakota, was the big time. I've been very fortunate to have been in this business as long as I have been."

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

July 2021

President's message

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Clint Lowery and Nancy Shuford for their horses' wins. Also, for all who had horses run or in training, well done.

Thanks to Art Bauer for sharing the magnificent photo of his mares and their foals. I not only appreciate receiving pictures like this, but I also get a lot of joy seeing such adorable babies. If any members have photos of babies to share, please send them so we can all coo over their adorableness. Plus, it really helps to fill up the newsletter.

I'm excited to attend my first live race in over a year. I'm heading to the Belmont Stakes, one of my top three race days of the year. Of course, by the time this is published and distributed it will be time for Saratoga. With a bit of luck, I'll see some of you at the track, and hopefully, after such a long absence of activity, I'll have the endurance it takes to have fun, again.

/Rebecca Montaldo

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Latest Bauerfarm (Art Bauer) NC-breds of 2021 (from left):
Friend Or Foe filly born April 8 with her dam She's Stylish, by Posse.
Girl On a Mission (by Noble Mission-GB) with her Jan. 16 filly by Klimt.

Racing Recaps

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Miss Grandstander wins at Charles Town for breeders Dr. and Mrs. E.C. Lowry.

Miss Grandstander (Fiber Sonde out of Athena Grand, by Civilisation) won at Charles Town April 29 for breeders Dr. and Mrs. E. Clint Lowry. The 4-year-old filly ran on a fast track in the rain going 4½ furlongs in :53.98. Miss Grandstander ran close to the early front runners but dropped back leaving the three-eighths pole. Turning for home, running in the three-path, she dug in, took the lead mid-stretch and held on to win by three-quarters of a length.

Dionysus' Chalice (Fiber Sonde out of Athena Grand, by Civilisation) won at Mountaineer May 1 for breeders Dr. and Mrs. E. Clint Lowry. The 6-year-old gray gelding ran 4½ furlongs on a fast track in :52.97. The full brother to Miss Grandstander pressed the pace before pulling clear at the top of the stretch and was put under a drive to finish first by a length.

Saints Marching In (Flashback out of Wicked Cricket, by Chapel Royal) won at Belterra Park May 19 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 5-year-old grey/roan gelding ran on the inside battling for the lead, dug in down the stretch to win by a neck.

Hitting the Board April 25–May 24

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Result
29-Apr	Miss Grandstander	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
1-May	Dionysus' Chalice	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
2-May	Shea D Summer	Gulfstream Park	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	2nd
4-May	Always Special	Belterra Park	Bred & owned by Beth Muirhead	2nd
4-May	Catauga County	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
6-May	Virginia Beach	Pimlico	Owned by James Jones in partnership	3rd
8-May	Fifty Sheas Ofgrey	Gulfstream Park	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	3rd
10-May	Secret Zar	Parx Racing	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
11-May	Saints Marching In	Thistledown	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
13-May	Double Tough Tiger	Churchill Downs	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
14-May	All Fact	Churchill Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
18-May	Dionysus' Chalice	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
19-May	Saints Marching In	Belterra Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
21-May	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
23-May	Dannyhill	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

July 2021
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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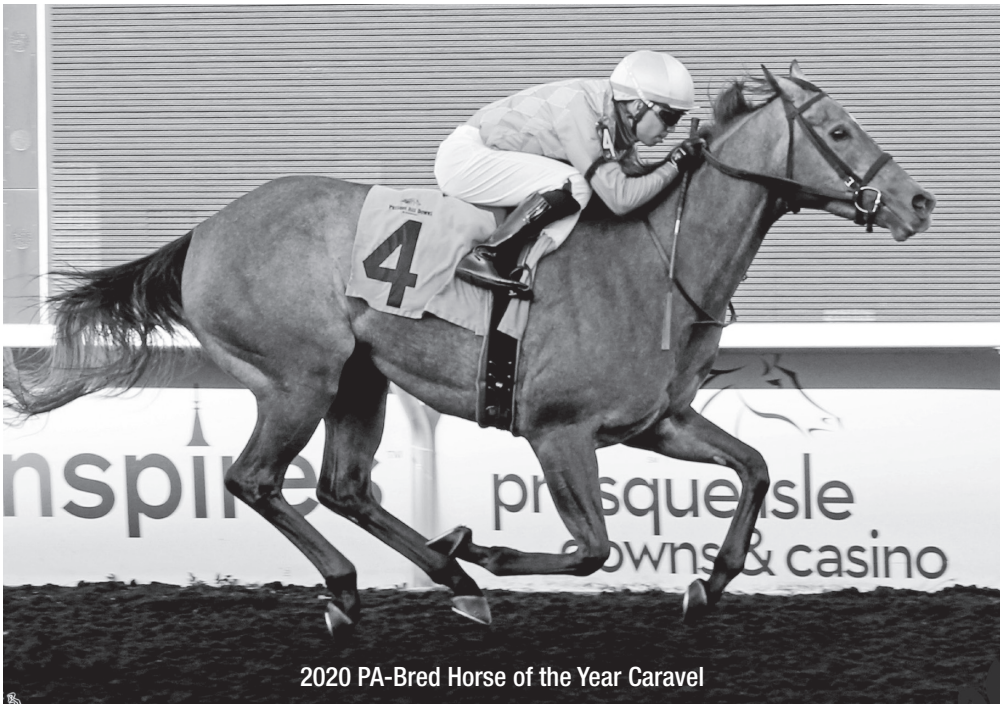
2020 Iroquois Award Winners



2020 PA-Bred Horse of the Year Caravel

HORSE OF THE YEAR
3-Year-Old Female

CARAVEL

Bred by Elizabeth M. Merryman

Caravel was exciting in each and every one of her five starts, with her four wins coming by daylight margins. The gray filly owned, bred and trained by Lizzie Merryman won Presque Isle Downs' Lady Erie in her stakes debut and added the Malvern Rose, winning by a combined 8 lengths. In her second start she just missed the 18-year-old Penn National course record for 5 furlongs as she cruised home by more than 5 lengths.

2-Year-Old Filly

PLANE DRUNK

Bred by Triple Threat Stables LLC

Dazzling in a Parx maiden special weight when winning by nearly a dozen lengths, Triple Threat Stables' homebred Plane Drunk captured Penn National's Shamrock Rose Stakes by more than 3 lengths after a second-place finish in Delaware Park's Small Wonder Stakes.

2-Year-Old Male

FIRE'S FINALE

Bred by Kenwood Racing LLC

A last-to-first run in the Pennsylvania Nursery at Parx capped a busy season in which Jump Start's son Fire's Finale hit the board in three of five starts outside Pennsylvania before heading to Parx and getting back-to-back wins.

3-Year-Old Male

DREAMS UNTOLD

Bred by Patricia L. Chapman

In a sophomore campaign that started with a 14¼-length romp in January at Parx, Pat Chapman's Dreams Untold, a homebred son of Smarty Jones, sprinted home in front of four of his eight starts during the year while earning $146,400, the most of any 3-year-old male in 2020.

Iroquois Awards continued from page 1

Older Female • Turf Female
Female Sprinter
JAKARTA
Bred by Arrowwood Farm Inc.

The richest PA-Bred runner of the year, Jakarta capped her season with a devastating stretch run to win the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash at Gulfstream. She added the turf title after winning or placing in five of her six turf starts, three of them stakes. Jakarta is also female sprinter after a season in which she won or placed in stakes from 5 furlongs to 1 mile. Her daylight win in the Claiming Crown Distaff Dash came at 5 furlongs, and she just missed in the 5½-furlong Caress Stakes at Saratoga. She was only beaten a length by multiple Grade 1 winner Got Stormy in the 5½-furlong Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes-G3 at Keeneland after blazing through opening fractions of :21 and change and :44 and change. She earned nearly $250,000 with four wins in nine starts.

Older Male • PA Preferred Male
Leading Breeding Fund Recipient (Horse)
WAIT FOR IT
Bred by Fantasy Lane Stable

At age 5, Wait for It had his best season yet when winning four times and placing twice in eight starts while earning nearly $210,000. The son of Uptowncharlybrown drew off to easy scores in the Storm Cat Stakes at Parx and Hard Spun Stakes at Presque Isle Downs. He earned the title of PA Preferred Male after earning $208,610 in 2020. He was the top equine breeding fund recipient, earning $191,540 for his breeders.

Turf Male • Male Sprinter
THE CRITICAL WAY
Bred by Blackstone Farm LLC

In a Covid-19 shortened year The Critical Way went from claimer in January to stakes winner in late summer in six starts, all at 5 or 5½ furlongs. His biggest score came in dominating gate-to-wire fashion in the Marshall Jenney Handicap at Parx but he also won going 5 furlongs in allowance company at Tampa Bay. Less than a month later he just missed by a head after setting the early fractions against open company in Monmouth Park's Virgil Buddy Raines Stakes.

Broodmare of the Year
AVANI FORCE
Owned by Vicky Schowe & Beatrice Patterson
Dam of 2020 stakes winner Pink Caddy

Her first five foals of racing age are all winners, including multiple graded stakes winner Call Paul, the El Padrino filly Pink Caddy, a stakes winner at 2 and 3, and 2020 juvenile stakes-placed Maythehorsebwithu, by Bullsbay.

PA-Preferred Female
ITS A JOURNEY
Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Szeyller
2020 earnings: $187,260
Won Mrs. Penny Stakes at Parx Racing

DRF Highest Beyer Award
MONONGAHELA
Bred by Gunpowder Farms LLC
101 Beyer
John B Campbell Stakes
2/15/20 at Laurel Park

Lifetime Achievement Award
PATRICIA L. CHAPMAN

Award of Merit
PASTURES OF POINT LOOKOUT

Total Leading Total
Breeding Fund Recipient
NORTHVIEW STALLION STATION INC.
$306,970

Leading Breeder Award Recipient
Blackstone Farm LLC
$171,522

Leading Stallion
Jump Start
Owned by Northview Stallion Station Inc.
$172,796

Leading Overall Breeder of
Pennsylvania Breds
Blackstone Farm LLC
$1,676,119

A few words from the Executive Secretary

The PHBA hosted the 42nd Annual Iroquois Awards Banquet virtually on May 21, and what a great night it was. The fourth annual Lifetime Achievement Award was given to longtime PA breeder Patricia Chapman, and Elizabeth Merryman's Caravel was crowned Horse of the Year after her incredible achievements in 2020. Congrats to all the Champions!! Be sure to catch the acceptance speeches on Facebook and Twitter!

Our 21st annual Pennsylvania's Day At the Races at Parx is just around the corner. The event will take place on Monday, Aug. 23. The day will honor and celebrate the breeding industry in Pennsylvania, as well as provide the chance for some top-notch horses to showcase their talents in our five $100,000 stakes: the Banjo Picker Sprint for 3 & up at 6 furlongs; the Storm Cat for 3 & up at 1 1⁄16 miles; the Marshall Jenney Handicap for sprinters 3 & up at 5 furlongs on the turf; the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial for fillies and mares, 3 & up, at 6 furlongs; and the Mrs. Penny for fillies and mares, 3 & up, at 1 1⁄16 miles on the turf. A 25 percent PA-sired bonus will again be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all stakes.

To nominate your horse, please call Parx Racing at 215.639.9000.

Early nominations close Monday, July 12 and late nominations close Aug. 2. We hope to see you on Aug. 23.

As always, if you have any questions about our program or if you're interested in joining the Thoroughbred breeding industry in Pennsylvania, please call our office at 610.444.1050.

PENNSYLVANIA's DAY at the RACES

MONDAY, AUGUST 23,2021

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2021 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 7 furlongs 1st - Wait For It, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Breezy Gust	**$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Promised Storm, 3rd - Ujjayi
FRIDAY, MAY 28 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles (off turf) 1st - Trolley Ride, 2nd - Midnight Obsession, 3rd - Discreetly Tough	**$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles (off turf) 1st - Ravens Delight, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Saratoga Jack
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf
MONDAY, JULY 19 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6½ furlongs	
MONDAY, JULY 26 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile 70 yards	
TUESDAY, JULY 27 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES** 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards	
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES **MONDAY, AUGUST 23** **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES** 3 & up, 6 furlongs **$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf **$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles
	$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	
MONDAY, SEPT. 13 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES** 2YO, 6 furlongs
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles
FRIDAY, NOV. 26 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
TUESDAY, DEC. 7 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES** 2YO, 7 furlongs	

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

May 2021

Parx Around the Ovals

May 30th, 2021 - Parx Racing was well represented at Belmont Park in the $100,000 Paradise Creek Stakes. Even-money favorite *Beren* (*Weigelia - Silmaril* by *Diamond*) galloped to an impressive 10 3/4 length victory over a sloppy track with jockey **Eric Cancel** for trainer **Robert Reid, Jr.** and owners/breeders **Susan Quick** and **Christopher J. Feifarek.** *Three Two Zone* (KY) (*Street Sense - Star Rating* by *Dansili*) came in second with jockey **Kendrick Carmouche** for trainer **Marya Montoya** and owner **Alonzo Racing**.

May 28th - PA Bred *Midnight Obsession* (*Overanalyze - Halo Hollie* by *Halo's Image*) was ridden to a close second by jockey **Joe Bravo** in the $100,000 Lyphard Stakes for trainer **John Servis** and owner **Main Line Racing Stable**.

May 28th - The King Cheek (NY) (*Laoban - Selfie* by *War Chant*) ran second in the $300,000 Grade 3 Penn Mile Stakes with jockey **Jaime Rodriguez** for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owners **Morris E. Kernan, Jr.** and **Jagger Inc.** after a short lead against winner *Gershwin*.

May 28th - Indian Lake (*Daredevil - Stormy Situation* by *Stormy Atlantic*) ran second in the $102,000 Jersey Derby Stakes with jockey **Luis Ocasio** for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owner **Gap View Stables** and **Jagger. Inc.** after a game battle against winner *It's A Gamble* in the final furlong.

May 19th - PA Bred *Chub Wagon* (*Hey Chub - Takin the Plunge* by *Lion Heart*) won the $100,000 Runhappy Skipat Stakes at Pimlico with jockey **Irad Ortiz, Jr.** for trainer **Guadalupe Preciado** and owners/breeders **Daniel J. Lopez** and **George Chestnut**. She displayed an impressive new dimension by harnessing her incredible speed to rate behind rivals, then drew off when clear at the 1/8th pole to get the victory by 2 lengths over a fast closing 2nd place *Casual* for trainer **Steve Asmussen**.

May 15th - The King Cheek ridden by jockey **Jaime Rodriguez** won the $100,000 Sir Barton Stakes at Pimlico for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owner **Morris E. Kernan, Jr.** and **Jagger Inc.** after dueling it out against Bob Baffert's *Hozier* in the final stretch.

May 15th - After a strong start, *Indian Lake* (KY) (*Daredevil - Stormy Situation* by *Stormy Atlantic*) ran 4th in the $100,000 James W. Murphy Stakes with jockey **Jaime Rodriguez** for trainer **Jamie Ness** and owners **Gap View Stables** and **Jagger Inc.**

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Best of 2020 Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards

Category	Horse	Trainer	Owner
2-Year-Old Male	Kidnapped	John Servis	Main Line Racing Stable
2-Year-Old Female	Aegean Sea	Juan Carlos Guerrero	Ten Strike Racing
3-Year-Old Male	Dreams Untold	John Servis	Someday Farm
3-Year-Old Female	Madam Meena	Jamie Ness	Michael Cox
Older Male	Flat Out Beautiful	Jamie Ness	Morris Kernan, Jr., Yo Berbs & Jagger Inc.
Older Female	It's A Journey	Jamie Ness	Gap View Stables & Jagger Inc.
Outstanding Claim of the Year	Admiral Abe	Robert Mosco	Stefcon Racing
Claiming Horse of the Year	Salsita Roja	Herold Whylie	Emerald Racing Stable LLC
Winningest Horse	Salsita Roja	Herold Whylie	Emerald Racing Stable LLC
Special Achievement	Vequist	Robert Reid, Jr.	Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable & Swilcan Stable LLC
Horse of the Year	Madam Meena	Jamie Ness	Michael Cox

May 9th - PA Bred *Beren* won the $100,000 Gold Fever Stakes at Belmont Park for trainer **Robert E. Reid, Jr.** and owners/breeders **Susan C. Quick** and **Christopher J. Feifarek**. *Beren* won by a nose with jockey **Manuel Franco** after prevailing with a strong outside move, gaining the edge in the final stride.

May 1st - Last minute entry, *Brooklyn Strong* (NY) (*Wicked Strong - Riviera Chic* by *Medaglia d'Oro*) ran 15th in the Run For the Roses at Churchill Downs. *Brooklyn Strong* solidly bumped the outer part of the gate and was jostled between horses right from the start of the 19 horse Kentucky Derby field. Jockey **Umberto Rispoli** was chosen to ride *Brooklyn Strong* for trainer **Daniel Velazquez** and owner **Mark Schwartz**.

PTHA Peeks

May 17th - First time starter *Centre Court Champ* (KY) (*Dominus - Wimbledon Star* by *Wimbledon*) won the $25,000 Maiden Claiming race for fillies and mares for trainer **Robert Mosco** and owner **Jack Armstrong**, going 6 furlongs with jockey **Abner Adorno** aboard.

May 11th - PA Bred *Precious* (*Fed Biz - Brilliant Sunshine* by *Smarty Jones* won the $35,000 Allowance Optional Claiming race with jockey **Frankie Pennington** for trainer **John Servis** and owner/breeder **Newell Thoroughbreds, LTD** after reeling in rival *Dilly Dilly Philly* in the deep stretch 7 furlongs on a fast track.

May 10th - PA Bred *Sail Above* (*Smarty Jones - Shootforthestars* by *Seattle Slew*) won the Maiden Special Weight race going 1 mile and 70 yards with jockey **Mychel Sanchez**, taking after her famous sire in a dominant performance for trainer **John Servis** and owner/breeder **Someday Farm**.

May 4th - Bayleaf (ON) (*Old Forester - Spicey Attitude* by *Maria's Mon*) won the 2nd race with jockey **Luis Ocasio** for trainer **Louis C. Linder, Jr.** and owner **Over the Moon Racing Stable**, giving these connections an amazing three consecutive wins in a row.

May 17th - Onthisharvestmoon (KY) (*Malibu Moon - Prairy Kat* by *Flying Spur*) won the Maiden Special Weight race for fillies and mares with jockey **Ruben Silvera** for trainer **Kate DeMasi** and owner **Pewter Stable**, going 6 1/2 furlongs.

Catch PTHA Peeks with Dani Gibson during Parx Live Racing!
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SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Racing Across the Nation

Eight horses who went through the breaking process in South Carolina crossed the finish line first in stakes races between April 24 and May 19.

On April 24, Miss Leslie overcame a rough beginning in the Weber City Miss Stakes at Pimlico. Squeezed coming out of the gate, she had to steady approaching the first turn. Miss Leslie angled five wide and kicked into gear at the quarter pole, passing all and hitting the wire 1½ lengths in front. She was developed at Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center.

Mid-pack early on, She's My Type put in a strong stretch run rally to capture the License Fee Stakes at Belmont Park April 30. This former pupil of Kip Elser at his Kirkwood Stables operation in Camden proved best by 1¾ lengths. In eight career starts, She's My Type has four wins including three stakes.

Madone, who has spent time in South Carolina at Kirkwood Stables and with Cary Frommer in Aiken, overcame a stumble at the start to win the Senorita Stakes-G3 at Santa Anita May 1. In traffic in the stretch, Madone found a path and came home a length in front. She has won four of her five career starts.

Firenze Fire, another graduate of Travis Durr's program in St. Matthews, proved much the best in the Runhappy Stakes-G3 at Belmont Park May 8. He stalked the leader before pouncing on him in the stretch and drawing off to a 3¼-length advantage. Firenze Fire has won 14 races including 12 stakes during his career while earning $2,319,350.

Beren, who learned his early lessons under the direction of Randy and Kala Rentz in Ehrhardt, came home first in the Gold Fever Stakes at Belmont Park May 9. In a hard-fought victory, Beren overcame some traffic and got up in the final stride to win by a nose.

Alda, who was prepared for her racing career at the Webb Carroll Training Center, won the Hilltop Stakes at Pimlico on Black-Eyed Susan Day, May 14. While 11 lengths back early on, Alda gradually made-up ground. Near the eighth pole, she took the lead and, while challenged, would not be denied, winning by a neck.

The old-timer Arklow, now 7 years old, showed the youngsters he still has plenty of energy in the 1½-mile marathon Louisville Stakes-G3 at Churchill Downs May 15. Tenth over 10 lengths off the pace for the opening half-mile, Arklow rapidly started passing horses with a half-mile to run and drove to a 1-length victory. Arklow is a product of Franklin "Goree" Smith's operation at the Elloree Training Center. He has won seven stakes and earned $2,750,746 during his career,

Also a graduate of Elloree Training Center, Hungarian Princess became a three-time stakes winner when proving best in the Swifty Sired Fillies Stakes at Indiana Grand May 19. Within 2 lengths of the lead during the opening three-eighths-mile, Hungarian Princess took command approaching the eighth pole and cruised home 1¾ lengths in front.

A notable achievement by Bobby and Jason McCutchen is the fact they had five 2-year-olds (Vodka N Water, Jack Backed, Conagher, Cheyenne Wind and Tough Enough) finish second in races at Keeneland and Churchill Downs.

South Carolinians active at Midlantic Sale

Five South Carolinians had consignments at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale held in Timonium, Md., May 17-18.

Cary Frommer, based in Aiken, sold 12 that commanded a total of $1,692,000. She presented colts by Munnings ($380K), Liam's Map ($325K), Laoban and Into Mischief. Also in her consignment were fillies by Mineshaft ($170K), Goldencents ($150K), Upstart ($125K), Candy Ride ($120K), Daredevil ($115K), Editorial, Keen Ice and Strong Mandate.

James Layden had six that went through the ring, bringing $435,000. He sold colts by Midnight Storm ($170K), Practical Joke ($140K), D'Funnybone, Goldencents, Gormley and a gelding by Air Force Blue.

Marcus and Crystal Ryan, selling under their Mason Springs banner, sold a Street Boss filly for $230,000. They also sold

continued

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Madelon Wallace

fillies by Outwork and Candy Ride. The three brought a total of $320,000.

Kip Elser, owner of Kirkwood Stables, sold a More Than Ready colt for $200,000 and a filly by Maclean's Music for $100,000.

Wes Carter sold seven for a total of $238,000. He sold fillies by Cross Traffic, Golden Lad, Mosler and Tiznow, and geldings by War Dancer, Barbados and Lookin At Lucky.

Mason Springs rings bell at Midlantic Sale

Marcus and Crystal Ryan, owners of Mason Springs LLC, have developed a 45-acre farm outside of Aiken and are living their dream life.

Both having backgrounds with Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's hugely successful Darley operation, they met in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and were married in 2012. Settling in Aiken, along with preparing horses for their racing careers for clients, they have developed a pinhooking operation selling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale at Timonium for the past several years. In May, they sold a Street Boss filly (purchased for $20,000 as a yearling) for $230,000. The Aiken winter season is perfect for a horse because it grows a winter coat, sheds the coat and experiences Mother Nature's influence on its youthful and developing body. This is a fact that applies across the state of South Carolina.

Crystal Ryan sums up her feelings saying, "There are no shortcuts in this business – we learned over the 10 years you need knowledge, a great support team of vets, farriers and equine therapists and good help!"

Information for this article was provided by Helen Naylor.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Fast Fran	Rentz Farm	5/19/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Harrison Knows	Rentz Farm	5/19/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
HUNGARIAN PRINCESS	Elloree Training Center	5/19/21	Indiana Grand	Swifty Sired Fillies S
Wellington Wonder	Elloree Training Center	5/17/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Actuality	Elloree Training Center	5/17/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Money in the Bank	McCutchen Training Center	5/17/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
ARKLOW	Elloree Training Center	5/15/21	Churchill Downs	Louisville S-G3
Lady Frosted	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/15/21	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Blinkers	McCutchen Training Center	5/15/21	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Stella Marie	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/14/21	Prairie Meadows	Waiver Claiming
ALDA	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/14/21	Pimlico	Hilltop S
Precious	Rentz Farm	5/11/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Rigged Up	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/11/21	Thistledown	Allowance
Angry American	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/10/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
BEREN	Rentz Farm	5/9/21	Belmont Park	Gold Fever S
FIRENZE FIRE	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/8/21	Belmont Park	Runhappy S-G3
Golactic	Kirkwood Stables	5/6/21	Thistledown	Allowance
Pylon	Rentz Farm	5/5/21	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Sentimentaljourney	Elloree Training Center	5/5/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Originaly From Dot	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/5/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Moonachie	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/5/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Baby Bull	Rentz Farm	5/4/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Betty's Smile	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/4/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Leader of the Band	Rentz Farm	5/3/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Quality Stones	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/3/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Safe Conduct	Custom Care-D. Freyer	5/2/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
Karnak	Aiken-Legacy Stable	5/2/21	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
River Dog	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/2/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
MADONE	Cary Frommer/Kirkwood Stables	5/1/21	Santa Anita	Senorita S-G3
Upstriker	Elloree Training Center	5/1/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Three Technique	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/1/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
SHE'S MY TYPE	Kirkwood Stables	4/30/21	Belmont Park	License Fee S
Cowboy Casanova	Aiken - Cary Frommer	4/30/21	Prairie Meadows	Maiden Special Weight
She's A Dime	Aiken - Cary Frommer	4/30/21	Santa Anita	Allowance
Woodbine Way	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/30/21	Tampa Bay	Allowance
Miss Grandstander	Rentz Farm	4/29/21	Charles Town	Allowance
Because I Can	Rentz Farm	4/27/21	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Gravel Road	Rentz Farm	4/27/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Risque's Jewel	Rentz Farm	4/26/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Midnight Obsession	Rentz Farm	4/25/21	Belmont	Allowance
Heir Point	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/25/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Best Kept Secret	Rentz Farm	4/24/21	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Kilronan	Arch Kingsley	4/24/21	Queen's Cup	Maiden Special Weight
MISS LESLIE	Webb Carroll Training Center	4/24/21	Pimlico	Weber City Miss S
Literally	Rentz Farm	4/23/21	Penn National	Allowance
Bess	Elloree Training Center	4/23/21	Penn National	Allowance
Tony Small	Elloree Training Center	4/21/21	Tampa Bay	Allowance

VIRGINIA

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Schoodic Captures Virginia Gold Cup May 29; Loosening of Covid-Related Restrictions Allows Spectators To Attend

The 96th running of the Virginia Gold Cup Races took place May 29th at Great Meadow Racecourse in The Plains and about 4,000 fans were on hand to enjoy the day's events on an unseasonably cool and damp afternoon.

Tailgating socials were set up all around the rail and perimeter areas of the massive racing surface. The one-day meet, which normally attracts 60,000-plus spectators, was held without fans in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Nine races were contested — seven over hurdles and two over timber — and $230,000 in purse monies was distributed.

In the four-mile $50,000 Virginia Gold Cup (timber), Dolly Fisher's Schoodic returned to his winning ways for trainer Jack Fisher and jockey Hadden Frost. The 11-year-old Tiznow gelding had not won a race since the fall of 2019 but he became a three-time stakes winner over the Great Meadow course to go along with earlier victories in the International Gold Cup and David Semmes Memorial. The win raised his career bankroll to more than $450,000 in a 45-race career that began in 2012. In the Gold Cup, Schoodic stalked in second place, took the lead on the final circuit with four fences to go, and drew off by nearly six lengths.

In the co-featured $50,000 David Semmes Memorial, Hudson River Farms' Galway Kid, who has competed against the sport's best, improved his career record to four wins in eight starts. The six-year-old Irish-bred, trained by Keri Brion, closed out 2020 with a handicap hurdle win over a strong field at the International Gold Cup Races. In the tightly contested Semmes, Galway Kid, under Bernie Dalton, made his move at the final turn and outdueled Irv Naylor's Bedrock, who was returning from a long layoff, to prevail by a half-length in a driving finish over hard-charging Gibralfaro and rider Tom Garner.

Heading into the summer months, a pair of steeplechase races will be held at Colonial Downs every Monday during the summer meet prior to the first pari-mutuel race. Featured jump race is the $75,000 Randolph D. Rouse Stakes on August 9.

Looking ahead to the fall calendar, four sanctioned meets are scheduled - the Foxfield Fall Races in Charlottesville (October 3), Virginia Fall Races in Middleburg (October 9), International Gold Cup Races in The Plains (October 23) and Montpelier Hunt Races in Montpelier Station (November 6). More details are at centralentryoffice.com.

Colonial Downs To Open 21-Day Thoroughbred Meet July 19

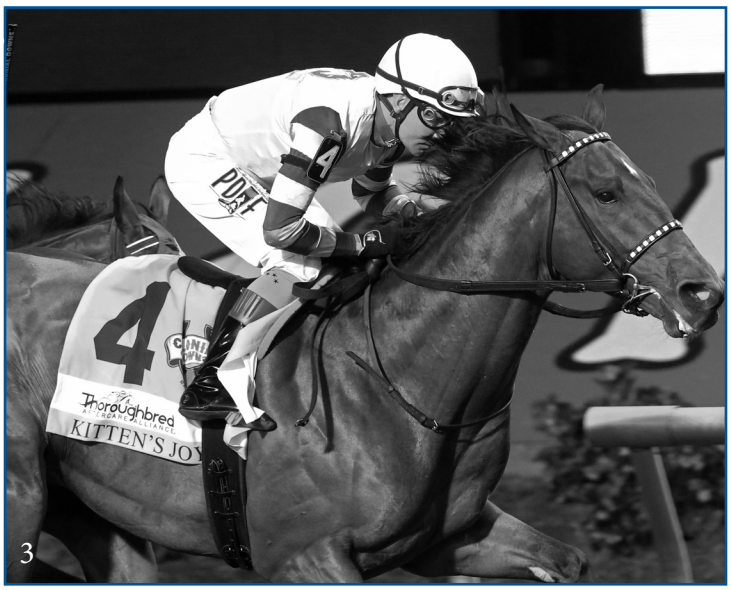
A total of 25 stakes races worth more than $2.7 million will be offered at the upcoming seven-week Thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs — from July 19 through Sept. 1 — featuring a minimum $500,000 in average daily purses, the Grade 3 $250,000 New Kent County Virginia Derby on Aug. 31, enhanced horsemen incentives, and an expanded racing program for Virginia bred, sired, and certified horses. Racing will take place every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with first post at 1:45 PM. All Colonial Downs races will be televised on TVG.

This year's meet has been increased by three days over last year's scheduled 18-day meeting, which was cut short due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Popular horsemen incentive bonus programs return this season. All owners who start a horse at Colonial Downs will receive the greater of $1,000 or their share of the purse money from the race. All trainers will receive $300 per horse started. The VHBPA is also offering a dirt race trainer bonus in races with a claiming price of $25,000 or less. The bonuses range from $200 for a win to $50 for fourth thru last.

Among the stakes program highlights this year are:

- *The July 19 opening-day program will feature four $100,000 stakes on turf that include three Virginia-Restricted --- the Bert Allen, Meadow Stable and M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes --- and a Virginia Bred/Sired --- The Nellie Mae Cox Stakes.
- *The Monday, July 26 card will include three open stakes on turf, headlined by the $150,000 Buckland along with two $100,000



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races--- the Andy Guest for fillies and mares and the Da Hoss for 3-year-olds and up.

- *On Monday, Aug. 23, Colonial will host four $100,000 stakes in the Mid-Atlantic Championship Series (MATCH) Series on the dirt track: The Victory Gallop, Love Sign, Chesapeake and Seeking The Pearl. The 2021 MATCH Series is a cooperative venture between Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, the MJC, VHBPA and Colonial Downs.
- *Virginia Derby Day is slated for Tuesday, Aug. 31, and in addition to the 18th annual renewal of the G3 Virginia Derby, four other grass stakes will be on the card — the $150,000 Virginia Oaks, $150,000 TAA Old Nelson, $100,000 Exacta Systems Rosie's Stakes and $100,000 Kitten's Joy.
- *Five $100,000 turf stakes for Virginia-Bred/Sired horses are scheduled on closing day. The Jamestown, Camptown, Brookmeade, Edward P. Evans and Punch Line will highlight the Sept. 1 finale. All are black-type events except for the Punch Line.
- *Three additional $100,000 Virginia-restricted stakes dot the calendar as well. The Hickory Tree and Keswick Stables Stakes highlight the Aug. 2 program while the Van Clief is a week later on Aug. 9.

Colonial Downs and the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (VHBPA) will combine forces to make a $30 donation to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) for every horse that starts in a race at the New Kent track this summer. The TAA is sponsor of the $150,000 Old Nelson Stakes which is part of the Virginia Derby under card.

Colonial Downs will be able to welcome fans back for the 2021 summer season. Per the Governor's most recent Covid update, there are no longer crowd size restrictions or social distancing requirements at entertainment venues and sporting events in the Commonwealth. Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear face coverings in most situations. Both indoor and outdoor seating is available at the New Kent track.

Colonial Downs began racing again in 2019 under new management of Colonial Downs Group. According to a newly released study conducted by Chmura Economics & Analytics, Virginia's horse racing and breeding industry generated an estimated economic impact of $542.1 million in the Commonwealth in 2019. Industry jobs, racing related expenditures and tax revenue have all risen since the General Assembly passed legalization of Historical Horse Racing machines in 2018, which enabled Colonial Downs to open and fuel the sport's revitalization.

For further meet details, visit colonialdowns.com, vabred.org or virginiahorseracing.com.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Caption 1 - Schoodic captures the $50,000 Virginia Gold Cup May 29 at Great Meadow. Photo by Douglas Lees.

Caption 2 - Galway Kid in the winner's circle after prevailing in the Grade 3 David Semmes Memorial. VEA Photo.

Caption 3 - Doc Boy won the 2019 TAA Kitten's Joy Stakes at Colonial Downs. The TAA is sponsoring the Old Nelson Stakes in 2021. Photo by Coady Photography.

Caption 4 - KD's Cat Bird won the 2019 Bert Allen Stakes at Colonial Downs. The 2021 edition is Virginia-Restricted and is scheduled for July 19. Photo by Coady Photography.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter July 2021

Bourne to Ride

Jack of all trades is a figure of speech often used to describe individuals that can perform multiple tasks in an efficient manner and it's generally considered a compliment of their expansive knowledge.

Lori Bourne is currently the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races senior outrider and unofficial social media information source, while acknowledging life history roles as owner, trainer, breeder, jockey and full-time mom.

She is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery, but maintains her active schedule at the track and on her farm in Avon Bend.

Sturdiness comes easy to this racing family, as Lori's stepmother Lynn Segal tried her hand as a jockey and has always felt comfortable on the back of a horse, while father Eddie has spent more time underneath a horse than he cares to recall.

A career blacksmith, the muscular veteran of many turf wars just celebrated his 80th birthday and scoffs at retirement.

Competing predominantly at a track that witnessed legendary female pioneers of the sport like Sylvia Bishop and Barbara Jo Rubin, Lori Bourne's best year as a rider was 1995 when she won a staggering 131 races, yet her career is more a story of adversity than success.

During 13 years in the tack, Lori suffered a broken back, knee, multiple crushed vertebrae in her neck, fractured pelvis and elbow, while twice breaking her jaw, but as soon as she could walk and talk she was ready to compete.

"I get this resiliency from my father," she says. "As a youngster, I was his shadow. He would gallop 10-15 horses a morning at the racetrack, break babies (for Ray Mikkonen) in the afternoon and finish by shoeing horses until dusk. Growing up I remember dad had every conceivable animal on the farm. I'm sure it has led to my irresistible impulse to do the same. My 13-year-old daughter Madelyn has our unequaled love of animals and presently we possess chickens, rabbits, ducks, sheep, cats, dogs, a goat and, of course, horses."

Graduating high school in May 1985, by November Lori rode her first race at Laurel Park (and got her first win in her second).

"I'm not sure I set out to be a jockey, but desired to be around horses in some capacity. Originally my weight appeared to be a concern, but hard work corrected that issue," she recalls. "My mentor was Odie Clelland and I galloped for him for over a year." Both Greg and Chris McCarron (Hall of Fame jockey) also got their start with Clelland.

Eventually Lori made the transition to West Virginia, where she heard female riders were given a fair chance to exhibit their talents, and found the small town atmosphere a suitable place to raise her son Willie.

"During my time in the Charles Town jock's room there were always four or five other girl riders, with Mitch Kuykendall leading the pack," she says. "Henry Mercer, Bob Rawlings and Vincent Moscarelli were trainers instrumental in my career, and I must thank agents Mike Rose and Wayne Rix for all their help. I rode my last race in August of 1998. I think injuries just finally caught up to me."

It seemed a natural progression for Lori to begin training horses, and in 2000 she embarked on the next chapter of Safari so Good.

Lori wanted a chance to enjoy life, be injury free and continue to provide for her family, so she hung out her trainer's shingle and took up the job as a part-time outrider.

"It was never a goal of mine to be the best at everything I tried, but to try my best at everything I did."

John and Ellen Kill-Kelley have been faithful owners of Lori's since day one. Smokin' Greida, Swampoodle and Flashin' Greida are all winners trained by Bourne for the owners.

All horses in Lori's care are special to her, but Rockstar Princess, a daughter of Fiber Sonde and the Citislipper mare Unlimited Diamond, may top her personal list. She owns, trained and bred this filly.

Unlimited Diamond was a gutsy racehorse and Lori fancied her pedigree, so when Louis Close opted to retire from the business, she eagerly accepted his generous offer to take her. Rockstar Princess was the first foal bred by Bourne out of the mare and was a two-time winner.

"I bred Rockstar Princess to Bullsbay (this year) and am excited to see the results," she reports.

Old timers may recall that Unlimited Diamond is a winning half-sister to regional star Donald's Pride (three-time Frank Gall Memorial Stakes winner and $531,764 earner).

In my capacity as track handicapper and announcer, in what seems eons ago, I would occasionally comment on the youthful demeanor and handsome deportment of Lori's trusty evening mount. One night I leaned over the paddock wall and hailed Lori down to ask, "Who is that?"

She smiled responding, "You might know him, it's Notice He's Atenor."

A veteran claimer that Lori campaigned from 2000-2001, once retired from the rigors of racing the battle-tested competitor became her favored pony.

He was also a horse that during my vagabond backstretch period I had the privilege of working with.

A quarter of a century had gone by. Notice He's Atenor was a 2-year-old that exhibited strong promise for conditioner John Lenzini, winning a maiden special weight contest in his third career effort.

Unfortunately, injuries thwarted him from reaching his full potential, yet his heart and desire earned my never-ending respect.

During the interview Lori revealed she has the 27-year-old at her farm.

"Even at his advanced age this horse still bucks and kicks with the best of them," says Lori. "He was such a handful the other day I had to put a shank on him to lead him from the paddock."

The circle of life in racing continues to represent birth, survival and rebirth, where the fortunate are blessed to overcome life's challenges.

Without any fanfare, Notice He's Atenor enjoys a permanent home and will go down as a touchdown on Lori's scoreboard of humanity, while hard work, optimism and the will to survive is the framework of Bourne's identity.

Eddie, once the ultimate parental caretaker, now resides with Lori, son Willie, a graduate of local Jefferson High School who just completed his first year there as a teacher, and daughter Madelyn, attached to her mother's hip during farm chores or any horse related activity recently adopted mom's latest passion. . . barrel racing.

Lori is philosophical: "A pensioned pony and these two kids are examples I made some right choices in my life."

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse

Some of the best incentives in the nation:

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes almost $5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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A horseman's daughter

Meet former Montpelier trainer Peter Howe and Colonial Downs' Jill Byrne

By Betsy Burke Parker

A racehorse riddle: What's the X-factor when it comes to producing a champion – nature or nurture?

Peter Howe knows from experience that it's a blend of science and art, but he says all of it is required to attain premium performance. He recognized the duality over a 40-plus year career training multiple champions out of Marion duPont Scott's Montpelier in central Virginia, and he sees it now in his daughter Jill Byrne, with her hand on the helm of Virginia's Colonial Downs.

In the best horses, Howe says, as with daughter Jill, he learned early to recognize that uncanny ability to leave long and land running. Literally with horses, figuratively with people.

"Tingle Creek would do that," says the 82-year-old trainer, still elegant and upright at 6 feet and still living near his beloved Red Horse Farm in Barboursville, Virginia. The soft-spoken Howe has been retired from racing nearly 20 years, but he keeps up with it through friends, through daughter Jill Byrne and through televised racing on TVG. "You'd have to be a very good horse to get away with standing off like that," Howe says. He had years in the show ring and thousands of show fences to develop a precision eye for timing. "Tingle Creek, Soothsayer, Neji. Horses like that could do it. It takes a good athlete with a lot of courage.

"Other trainers would sometimes try and send out a 'rabbit' as an entry to try and hook up with Tingle Creek to pressure him into making a mistake. That never worked."

Peter Howe exhibits the balance and grace of a hunt seat equitation rider schooling champion steeplecasher Soothsayer. *©NSA Archives*

As for his daughter, Howe says she's done a masterful job recreating the long-shuttered Colonial Downs, opened for the first time in 2019 after it last hosted racing in 2013. "It took courage there, too," he says. "She's always been her own person, I saw that when she was just a kid working in the barn. She's really showed what she's made of helping bring that place back."

Meet Jill Byrne

Jill Howe Byrne was born at her family's Red Horse Farm in Barboursville, Virginia. Byrne's father Peter Howe was Marion duPont Scott's trainer at Montpelier, and Byrne remembers a "magical" childhood growing up at the estate.

"My mom would pick my sister Debbie and I up from Grymes Memorial School in Orange, and we would go to Montpelier to have tea with Mrs Scott," she recalls. "Mrs. Scott loved my mother; they were very close." Tea parties were held in the Red Room, wall-to-wall win photos, awards and books on Thoroughbred racing and pedigrees.

"We (kids) had to sit and be polite until we were given the clear to go, then we'd run through the halls of Montpelier as if it were our own. We'd be running up and down the stairs, up and down all the corridors where there's millions of dollars' worth of old paintings and old chairs James Madison had sat in, and of course we're not thinking at the time."

No surprise since her father had his start on show hunters and jumpers before launching his race-training career – Byrne started out riding pony hunters, training with legendary Virginia horseman Jimmy Lee. She says her show career was short-lived. "When my dad put me up on my first racehorse when I was 12, that was the end of that. No more show horses for me."

Byrne galloped for her father at the estate, schooling jumpers and working horses on the turf and on the sand training track. She continued to ride while at boarding school in New York near Scott's private barn on the Belmont Park backstretch.

The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry was 45 minutes to Belmont, Byrne says. "I'd go there on weekends and gallop

horses for my dad."

She studied at University of Virginia, and after graduation continued to work as an exercise rider and assistant trainer, first for future Hall of Famers Scotty Schulhofer and John Veitch, and later for future husband Patrick Byrne (they're now divorced.) Patrick Byrne conditioned champions Favorite Trick and Countess Diana, and 1998 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Awesome Again. Other top horses include graded stakes winner Pass Rush and 2012 Florida Derby winner Take Charge Indy.

While they were together, in addition to helping gallop and around the shedrow, Byrne worked as Patrick's media liaison, which led to her making new connections. "David Loignon and Jeff Lifson were working for Kentucky's WHAS news station and were following Favorite Trick while he was racing," Byrne said in an interview. "They didn't know much about horse racing."

Lifson eventually rose to executive vice president of West Point Thoroughbreds, and Loignon developed his own production company. Both went to work at TVG when it formed in 1999.

"I would be on the track on the pony, and Lifson was standing there asking me all these questions about the Kentucky Derby horses, how they looked, what they were doing. He asked if I could come on and talk about horses. I love talking about horses, so that sounded pretty fun."

Producer Tony Alavato asked Byrne to work as a television host.

"It was something I could do while being involved with horses and their people, but it pulled me in a new direction," Byrne says. "I had the credibility with the horsemen already and found it easy to go into barns and ask questions."

Jill Byrne working Kentucky Derby weekend during her career with Churchill Downs. ***Photo courtesy of Jill Byrne***

Her father was close with Charlsie Cantey, a pioneer for women in racing broadcasting. "She is a beautiful rider, a respectful person and is articulate and educated," Byrne told a Kentucky magazine. "I always admired her and she ended up being a kind of mentor for me."

Byrne was the director of broadcast and programing at Churchill for nearly a decade then worked as senior director of industry relations for the Breeders Cup.

"It is very important (you) show people that you have an underlying passion that is real and true," she says. "You have to be a good representative of the game, whether on-air, or as a writer, or a photographer. To me, the core of that all circles back to the horse."

Byrne joined Colonial Downs as vice president of racing in 2019. She loves the facility, especially the turf.

"Oh my gosh, the course is amazing," Byrne says. "It's Bermuda grass, and every horseman that rides or trains on it says the same thing. It's like running on a bouncy carpet.

"I love having the steeplechase horses here every week. Jump racing is just logical here at Colonial Downs. There's a deep, rich history of steeplechasing here."

"Virginia racing would be lost without her," says Frank Petramalo, executive director of the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, noting that her frequent presence on the backstretch makes all the difference to horsemen respecting her judgment and trusting her decisions.

"It's important that I don't ask anyone to do anything that you can't do yourself," Byrne maintains. "You should lead by example and earn respect, don't expect it.

"If anything my dad was tougher on me than probably anybody that worked for him because he never wanted people to think that I was going to get anywhere because I was Peter Howe's daughter. I earned everything, where I was going to go and what I was going to do, by working harder than everyone else."

Howe is proud of his daughter. "I'm impressed what she's done over at Colonial Downs," says Howe. "She's always been her own person, I saw that when she was just a kid working in the barn.

"Without insulting them, she'll put people in their place. I can picture it – she just puts her hands on her hips and lets loose if something's not right.

"That's an important trait."

Summer jump racing at Colonial Downs

Monday July 19 – Maiden hurdle; Filly/Mare maiden hurdle
Monday July 26 – Maiden hurdle; Ratings handicap hurdle
Monday August 2 – Maiden hurdle; Maiden hurdle
Monday August 9 – Ratings handicap hurdle; The Randolph D. Rouse Filly/Mare hurdle stakes
Monday August 16 – Maiden hurdle; Ratings handicap hurdle
Monday August 23 – Maiden hurdle; Ratings handicap hurdle
Monday August 30 – Maiden hurdle; Filly/Mare maiden hurdle

2019 Colonial Downs jump racing
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Index to Advertisers

Beyond the Wire 51
Colonial Downs 5
Country Life Farm ..... Inside front cover
Delaware Park 17
Equine Equipment 49
Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 1
Fastrak Express Inc. 51
Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost Inc. 51
John Deere 64
Maryland-Bred Race Fund 4
Maryland Horse Library 10
Maryland Jockey Club 23
Matthew A. Peluso, Esq. 15
MHBA Yearling Show 3
NTRA 64
Retired Racehorse Project 56
The Mill 15
Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau 49
Vetericyn 42
Virginia Thoroughbred Association ..... Back cover
Webb Carroll Training Center ..... Inside back cover

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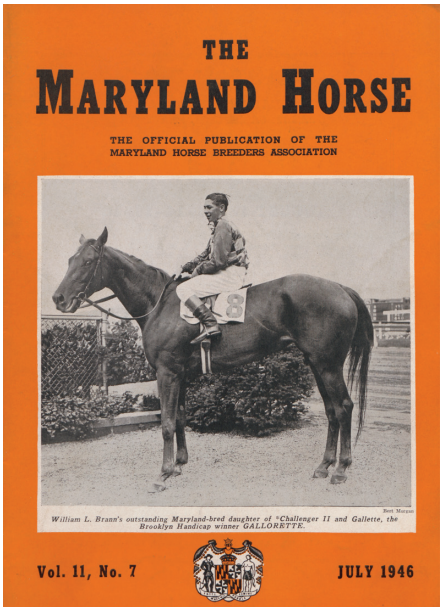
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MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
William L. Brann's outstanding Maryland-bred daughter of *Challenger II and Gallette, the Brooklyn Handicap winner GALLORETTE.
Vol. 11, No. 7
JULY 1946

Looking Back

75 years ago

■ Gallorette, one of the greatest runners ever produced in the state, appeared on the cover of the *Maryland Horse* for the second time in a year. William Brann's 4-year-old daughter of *Challenger II had just won the Brooklyn Handicap at Aqueduct over the year-older Stymie.

In coverage of the race in the American Race Horses 1946 *volume, it was noted that "Few horses have lost the lead to Stymie and regained it, but Gallorette fought back savagely and won by a neck. . ."*

■ Joe Palmer led off the American Trainers Association's report with "the most important turf event of June was the opening of the new Monmouth Park at Oceanport."

Palmer was in New Jersey four days before the opening and based on what he saw thought "it seemed a flat impossibility that it could open at all." Noting that the track had "one of the most commodious stands in the country," 18,000 people were in attendance on opening day. "The impression grows that Monmouth Park is in good hands, and that it will be run with a reasonable combination of sporting and commercial sanity," he wrote. "Amory Haskell and his associates have added a very attractive racing plant to the American racing scene."

■ Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord was elected president of the Havre de Grace track. In his column "The Racing Scene" Don Reed wrote: "General Reckord's election appeared to remove all the doubts about Havre de Grace continuing in business. For it is hardly likely that Gen. Reckord would have accepted the post had the owners of the track contemplated an early sale or a discontinuance of racing in the near future."

Reckord was the last president of Havre de Grace. Citing competition from Garden State Park, the track ran its last meet in spring 1950. By late 1950 Reckord was pushing for its sale, and 7,700 shares of the track's stock was sold to the operators of Pimlico and Laurel, which then received Havre de Grace's dates. Reckord would become president of the Maryland Jockey Club soon after. Also commander of the Maryland National Guard, Reckord later arranged for the sale of the property, for $500,000, to the State of Maryland for a new Guard facility.

■ Preparations for the "1946 Timonium Fair, official State Fair of Maryland," were underway, with premium books being mailed to breeders and exhibitors in the various fields of horse interest. There would be flat racing and a steeplechase daily each of the 10 days of the fair, which would kick off on Labor Day.

■ Humphrey Finney's monthly travels included this trip on June 5.

"Drove up to Delaware Park this morning, arriving in time to lunch with some Pennsylvania breeders who are considering the establishment of a breeders' organization similar to that in Maryland. It has been a pleasant day, with Delaware's lovely paddock appreciated to its highest degree."

50 years ago

■ "Marylander's $1,800 Filly Wins $100,000 C.C. A. Oaks" was the headline, and the dream of any sales buyer, when Our Cheri Amour won New York's filly classic Coaching Club American Oaks for Helen and Andrew Vizzi. Not only did she win by daylight, the filly ran the 1½ miles in a time faster than that year's Belmont Stakes winner Pass Catcher.

Prior to her upset at Belmont Park, Our Cheri Amour won a division of Delaware Park's Open Fire Stakes and Liberty Bell's Militia Handicap. The Vizzis had owned a few horses before the Porterhouse filly was picked out of the 1969 Eastern Fall Yearling sale by their 22-year-old son and "horse expert" Tully, but she was their first winner. Her trainer was retired Washington, D.C., firefighter John C. Friedman. The filly's career started at Shenandoah Downs in West Virginia, where she broke her maiden at 2, and included races at Charles Town and Timonium.

PETER WINANTS

Un Stable president (and *Evening Sun* assistant managing editor) Paul Broderick chats with movie star Mickie Rooney in Delaware Park's clubhouse.

Wrote *Maryland Horse* editor Snowden Carter: "All of this leads us to the inescapable conclusion that no one can instill quality into a horse and very few people can recognize it until it is demonstrated on the track itself."

■ Maryland-bred Jay Trump and Marylander D. Michael Smithwick were new inductees to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame.

Three-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Jay Trump was the only American-bred horse owned by, and ridden by, an American to win the English Grand National. Smithwick, a six-time Hunt Cup-winning rider, had saddled the winners of more money over jumps than any trainer in history.

■ The adventures of Un Stable were chronicled. Made up of a group of Baltimore *Sunpapers* editors and reporters who bought a yearling the year before, the stable had sent the colt named Running Story to trainer J. William "Billy" Boniface, son of *Baltimore Sun* racing editor Bill Boniface, who prepared him for his first start at Delaware Park in June.

"To insiders, the big joke was that Bill Hartack [who had no fondness for the press] was riding the newspaper horse." Running Story finished eighth of 12 in his first start.

Running Story made 16 of his career 97 starts at 2, won four times, and missed winning the Maryland Futurity that November by a nose.

25 years ago

STUART HAMAN

Trainer Nick Zito shows Pat Day his gratitude in the Preakness winner's circle as Louis Quatorze's owners Joseph Cornacchia and William Condren receive the Woodlawn Vase from Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, as Jim McKay (right) looks on.

■ The Triple Crown proved once again to defy all theories, as no one predicted Grindstone, the lesser half of William T. Young's Overbrook Farm entry trained by D. Wayne Lukas, would get up to win the Kentucky Derby-G1 by a nose over Cavonnier, trained by Triple Crown newcomer Bob Baffert; that New York-based Nick Zito would get his first Preakness win with Louis Quatorze, who led every step and equaled the stakes record as Skip Away gave chase; that Young and Lukas would win the Belmont with the favored part of the Derby entry, Editor's Note (Skip Away once again finished second).

Zito and Preakness-winning owners Joseph Cornacchia and William Condren capped off a stellar Preakness week as their Star Standard won the Pimlico Special-G1 the previous Saturday.

As for the new guy, Baffert was an "articulate ambassador for racing" and proved "the fun guy" of the Triple Crown. He sent out an entry in the Derby—coupled with Cavonnier was Virginia-bred Semoran. Owned by Donald R. Dizney and James E. English, the Keswick-bred Semoran went in with good credentials but finished 14th.

Semoran would go on to capture multiple graded stakes, earn $860,035 and remained in training until June 1998—in his last start he finished third behind Awesome Again and Silver Charm in Churchill Downs' Stephen Foster Handicap-G2 before retiring to stud.

■ Jane duPont Lunger's magnificent and ill-fated champion Go for Wand was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in her first year of eligibility. The Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Deputy Minister, named champion at 2 and 3 and winner of the 1989 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Stakes-G1 and six other Grade 1s in her career, was first or second in all 12 of her starts before her tragic breakdown in the 1990 Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 at Belmont Park.

■ The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale posted the highest figures ever for a select juvenile sale in the region. History was made when four horses sold for $100,000 or more. Topping the sale at $150,000—the most expensive 2-year-old to sell in the area—was a son of Country Life Farm sire Allen's Prospect. A Virginia-bred named Capital Call, he was purchased by Buzz Chace as agent for Paraneck Stable.

The eighth most expensive 2-year-old of the sale was the Two Punch colt Smoke Glacken on a $65,000 bid by trainer Henry Carroll; the gray Maryland-bred colt won 10 of 14 races, earned $759,560, was awarded the Eclipse Award as champion sprinter at 3, and became a top sire.

Capital Call won three of 27 races and earned $33,657.

10 years ago

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom (left) rallied but missed catching Shackleford in the Preakness.

■ Two fillies foaled in the region in the same crop were elected to the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame.

Safely Kept and Open Mind were born in 1986, in Maryland and New Jersey respectively, combined to win more than $4 million and a total of 33 stakes, captured Breeders' Cup races and were Eclipse Award winners.

Safely Kept, bred by David and JoAnn Hayden of Dark Hollow Farm, was the 1989 champion sprinter (a category that included male runners) after winning eight of nine starts, all stakes. The next year the daughter of Maryland sire Horatius scored in a dramatic running of the Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 and won six more stakes. When she retired after four years of competition, she had 24 wins (22 stakes) in 31 starts and earned $2,194,206.

Open Mind, bred by Due Process Stables and sired by former Windfields Farm stallion Deputy Minister, was the nation's champion filly at 2 and 3, won 12 of 19 starts (including 10 in a row), took the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1, and earned $1,844,372.

Remarkably, the two fillies met once in their careers, in the 1988 Maryland Million Lassie Stakes, and neither won. Open Mind finished second behind Ms. Gold Pole; Safely Kept was third.

■ Graham Motion-trained Animal Kingdom had never won on the dirt, picked up a new rider when his regular rider was injured, went off at 20-1, and won the Kentucky Derby-G1 for Team Valor. With John Velazquez aboard—available when his Derby mount, race favorite Uncle Mo, was scratched the day before—Animal Kingdom thundered home on top by 2¾ lengths.

While the Derby winner prepared for the Preakness at Motion's base at Fair Hill, 13 rivals geared up for the trip to Pimlico. The Derby winner rallied gamely from nearly 20 lengths back but couldn't catch the Dale Romans-trained forwardly-placed Shackleford, who gained the lead at the top of the stretch and held on.

■ Bred in Pennsylvania, raised in South Carolina and owned by South Carolinian John Fort, Plum Pretty carried the Mid-Atlantic banner into Churchill Downs and held on to win the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks by a neck. Trained by Bob Baffert, the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro bred by Walnut Green clients Silent Indy Stables, LLC and DDS Stables recorded her first stakes win in her previous start by taking the Sunland Park Oaks by 25 lengths.

■ Pimlico's Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 was won by "a filly with all the makings of a rising star." Royal Delta, the slight favorite in the field of five, recorded her third win, and first in a stakes, in her fourth career start for owner/breeder Palides Investments N.V. Inc. and trainer Bill Mott.

Royal Delta's career accomplishments would surpass any runner who appeared that Preakness weekend. The three-time Eclipse Award winner and two-time Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic-G1 champion by Empire Maker earned $4,811,126 in 22 starts, sold for $8.5 million at the end of her 3-year-old season, and was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 2019.

Pony Power. Frances Howard takes a foal for a walk, with company from youngster James Campbell aboard another pony at Maryland's Olney Pony Farm in July 1948.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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$100,000 Meadow Stable 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Restricted*
$100,000 Nellie Mae Cox F&M 3&up, 1 m Turf/VA Bred/Sired
$100,000 Tyson Gilpin F&M 3&up, 5½ f Turf/VA Restricted*

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

$100,000 Hickory Tree 2YO, 5 f Turf/VA Restricted*
$100,000 Keswick Stables F 2YO, 5 f Turf/VA Restricted*

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

$100,000 Van Clief F&M 3&up, 1 1/16 m Turf/VA Restricted*

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